**An absolute is a noun followed by a present participle.**

1. Hands trembling, she reached for the doorknob.

2. Tail wagging, my dog greets me at the door every day.

**Adjectives out of order**

**Instead of the usual adjective/noun syntax, have some adjectives follow the noun.**

**It’s also better not to attach an adjective to every noun.**

**In #2, notice the alliteration and then the oxymoron: excruciatingly handsome.**

1. The nice woman took her little dog to the neighborhood park and met a handsome man.

2. The woman, **b**londe and **b**odacious, took her dog to the park and met an excruciatingly handsome man.

**An appositive clarifies what came before and will not be the subject of a sentence.**

1. Sheila, my aunt, is nice.

2. My aunt, Sheila, is nice.

3. The spider, a tarantula, should not scare people.

**Cliché can refer to an idea or characterization; consider stereotypes.**

A librarian who is dull, overly studious, frumpy

A politician, who is a fast talker tossing about false platitudes

A race car driver, who is a womanizer, heavy drinker, the life of the party.

1. Let's touch base.

2. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

3. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.

4. I'm like a kid in a candy store.

5. I lost track of time.

6. Time heals all wounds.

7. We're not laughing at you, we're laughing with you.

**An oxymoron puts together dissimilar words or ideas:**

1. Suddenly the room filled with a deafening silence.

2. The comedian was seriously funny.

3. You are clearly confused by the situation.

4. This is another fine mess you have gotten us into

**A pun has a double meaning.**

1. I was struggling to figure out how lightning works, but then it struck me.

2. The grammarian was very logical. He had a lot of comma sense.

3. What do you call a person rabid with wordplay? An energizer punny.