

Spice it Up!

Punctuation

Use punctuation to inject more meaning, emphasis and effects in your writing! Used correctly, punctuation can supercharge your text.

“ Quotation marks change the tone of a sentence by turning it into direct speech. This shows characters in action, so the reader gets to discover what the character is like, rather than always being told.

! Exclamation marks are great way to show a strong emotion- good or bad. Be careful not to use them too much as they will lose their effect.

? Question marks allows you to engage your reader by making them answer a question in their minds or wait for the writers answer. Question marks can also be used to make the reader have an emotional response or make the reader doubt and wonder.

Use the power of full stops to direct the pace of your story. Do you have an action packed part in your story? Write short sentences. This will create powerful action driven sentences. Is your character scared? Put in lots of full stops to mimic the pounding of their heart.

Or do you want your reader to slow down and notice a single moment in the story? Use longer, complex sentences with wordy descriptions.

• Use the semicolon to create or emphasise a very close link between two clauses.

• Eg. He ran after the squirrel; the squirrel disappeared up a tree.

• The colon announces that something important is coming. It tells the reader to read on because crucial information is

• coming.

Eg. He was interested in one thing: catching the thief.

• An ellipsis suggests a pause or something being left unsaid. An ellipsis creates a pause that can increase tension.

Eg. It all seemed calm, until...

An ellipsis can also be used to show fragmented speech or thought. It tells the reader the character may be in confusion, insecurity, distress, or uncertainty.

Eg. I wasn't really . . . well, what I mean . . . see, the thing is . . . I didn't mean it.

The dash signals extra information in a sentence.

Eg. The boy- pleased with himself - ate his sister's last chocolate button.

It can also signal an abrupt interruption in speech.

Eg. The boy yelled. "I think I am fall—."

Connectives

Connectives are used to join sentences together. The simplest connective is "and", but using different connectives in writing is important as they help the reader understand the main ideas. It also adds variety to the writing which makes it more interesting to read.

Connectives to join two clauses:

and, not, but, or, yet, so, whereas, however

Connectives to show when:

the next day, after a while, before, as, meanwhile, eventually, at noon, in the next instant, while

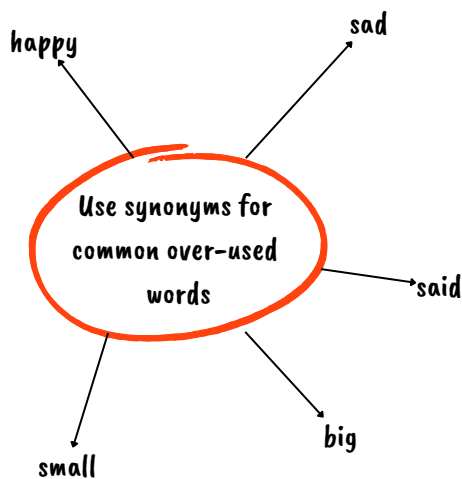
Try experimenting with these connectives by putting them at the front of the sentence.

Connectives to show cause and effect:

because, since, although, despite, consequently

Vocabulary

Using precise vocabulary and adding detail can make a sentence more descriptive and help paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind. Using the same words also gets a bit boring.



Story Opening

A great story captures the attention of readers right from the start. Some examples you could try...

Story openers that are mysterious
The house had stood empty for twenty years- so why was there a light on today?

Story starters that use language devices like alliteration
The house stood, silent and solitary.

First sentences that go straight into the action
Shivering with fear, heart beating wildly, she wondered if this could really be happening.

Stories that go straight into speech
"Of course you can use the bathroom. Come in," the old lady said. As she turned away to lead Joey into her house, a smile spread across her face.

Sentence Openers

Sentences usually start with a noun or a noun phrase, however, if sentences in a story keep starting the same way, it begins to get monotonous and can begin to seem like a long list. It is important to vary sentence starters to keep your writing interesting.

Some of the ways you can use different sentence starters is to use adverbs at the beginning of your sentences- these are known as fronted adverbials.

You might consider starting with:

two adjectives - **confused** and **tired**, she desperately looked for a way out.

ing, - **running**, she desperately looked for a way out.

the more, the more, - **the more** he tried to escape, **the more** entangled he got.

adverbs of manner, - **unexpectedly/ without warning/ cautiously/ as she walked**

three negatives followed by a dash and a question, - **the cold, the dark, the locked door- which should she deal with first?**

adverbs of time, - **afterwards/ soon/ in the morning/ after a while/ the next day**

adverbs of place, - **below the clouds/ above the sea/ upstairs/ back at the house**

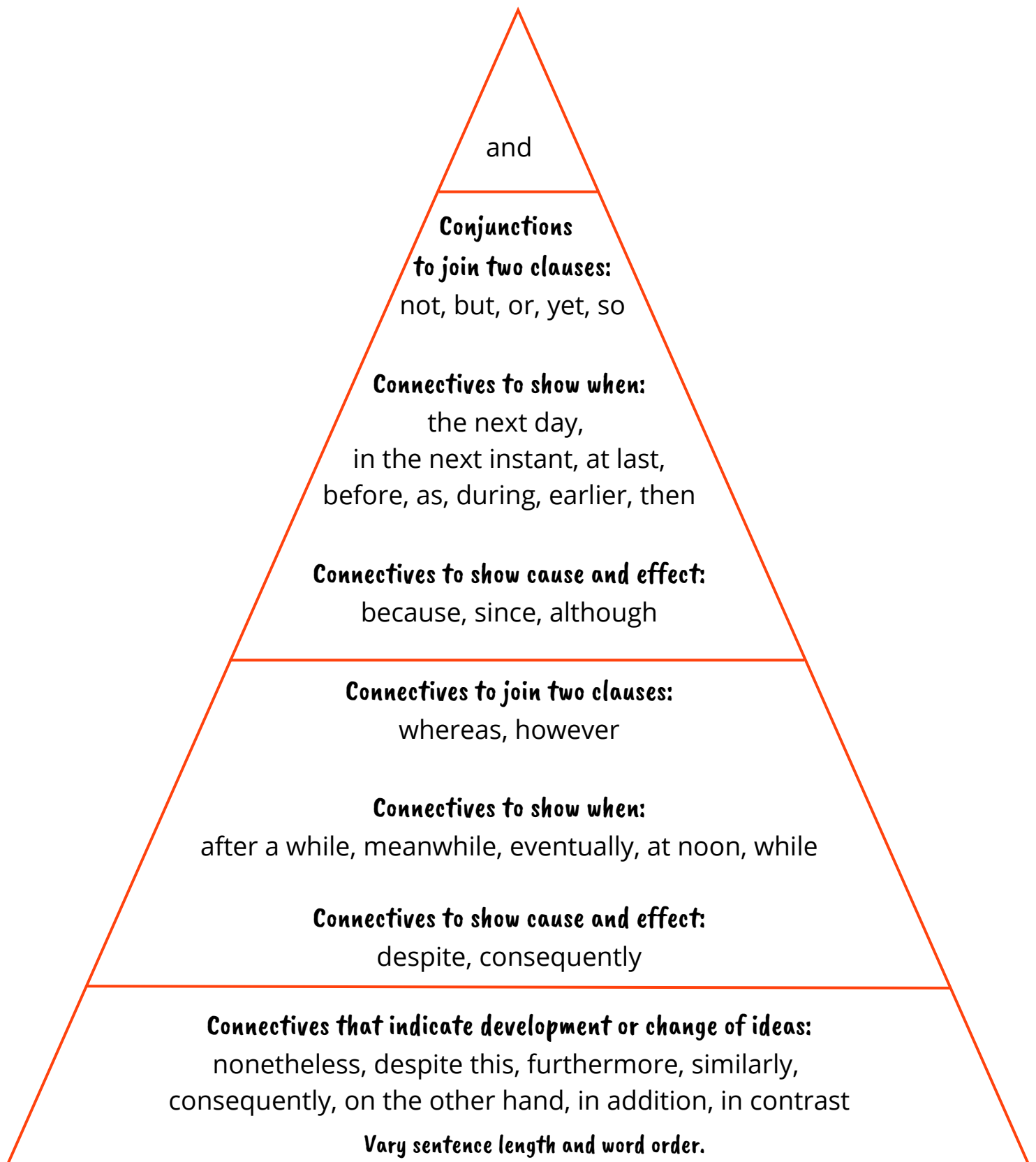
VCOB Pyramid - Vocabulary

ooze
beautiful
magnificent
spectacular creepy
bleak crowded
sun-drenched
horrible unattractive
terrified calm peaceful vast
delighted miserable frightened
angry annoyed furious attractive
courageous fearless enormous
chill eerie invade spectacular towering
murky apprehensive afraid wild hesitant fuming

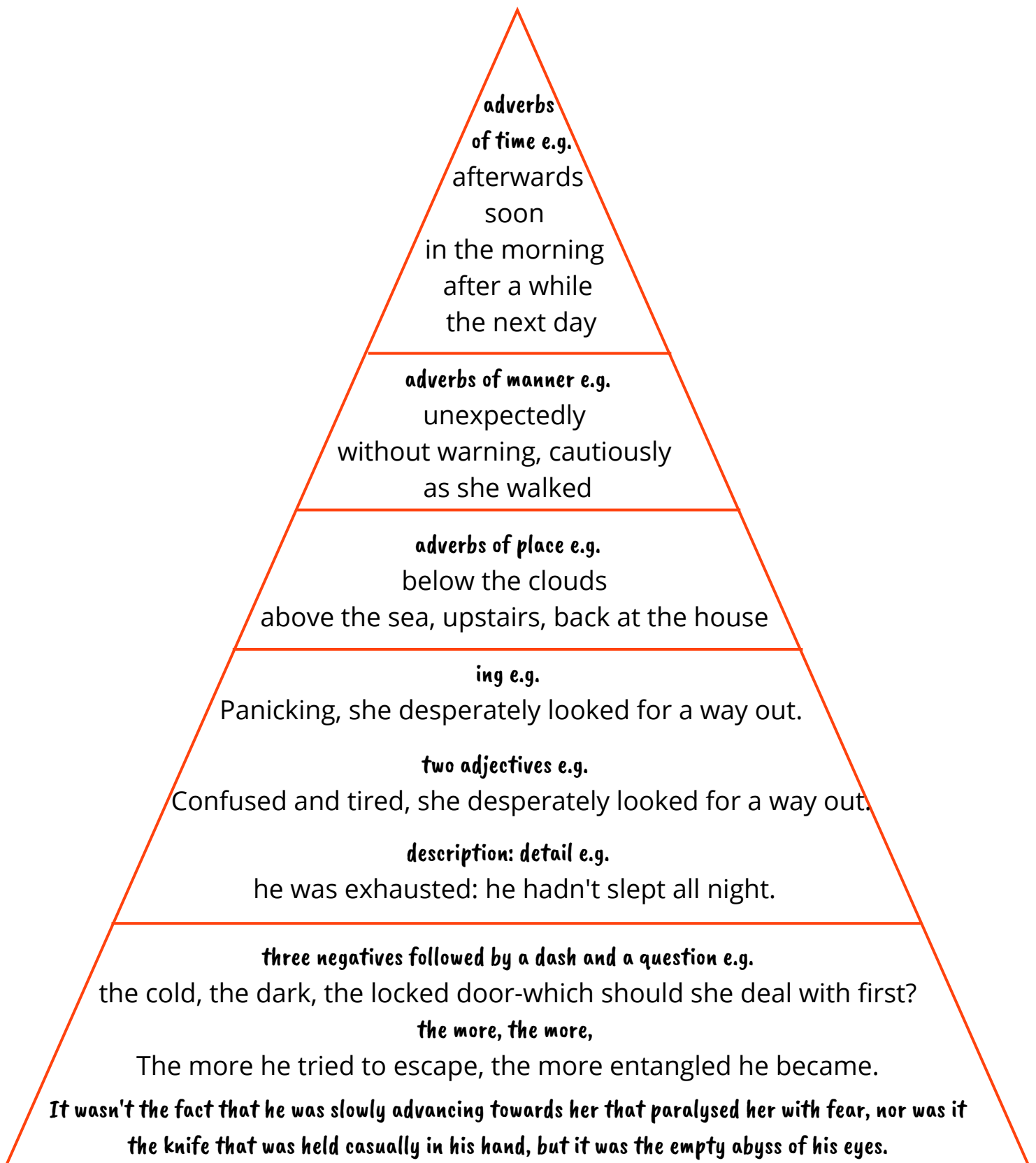
impressive exquisite lavish bustling swarming
hideous unsightly enchanting breath-taking unappealing
noiseless silent tranquil apprehensive tense uneasy worried
phenomenal crisp lullaby loathsome certain confident convinced
gorgeous stunning sleek grand grotesque hideous revolting serene
ecstatic elated thrilled harmony depressed myriad heartbroken
panic-stricken petrified terror-stricken sinister anxious stagnant intricate
stench enveloped elite husk shadow horrific agonising haunted bizarre grisly
appalling formidable grim perilous lush hint vibrant livid still futile sombre

cacophony spine-chilling hectic unnerving crestfallen dejected despondent
euphoric incensed labyrinth exquisite audacious insufferable dire pristine desolate
sublime obnoxious repugnant repulsive vile indolent opulent demure epiphany cascade oblivion
delicacy euphoria solitude idyllic nefarious incandescent iridescent ethereal ephemeral paradox
plethora nonchalant infuse pervade shrouded devoid vacant macabre grotesque disfigured uncanny

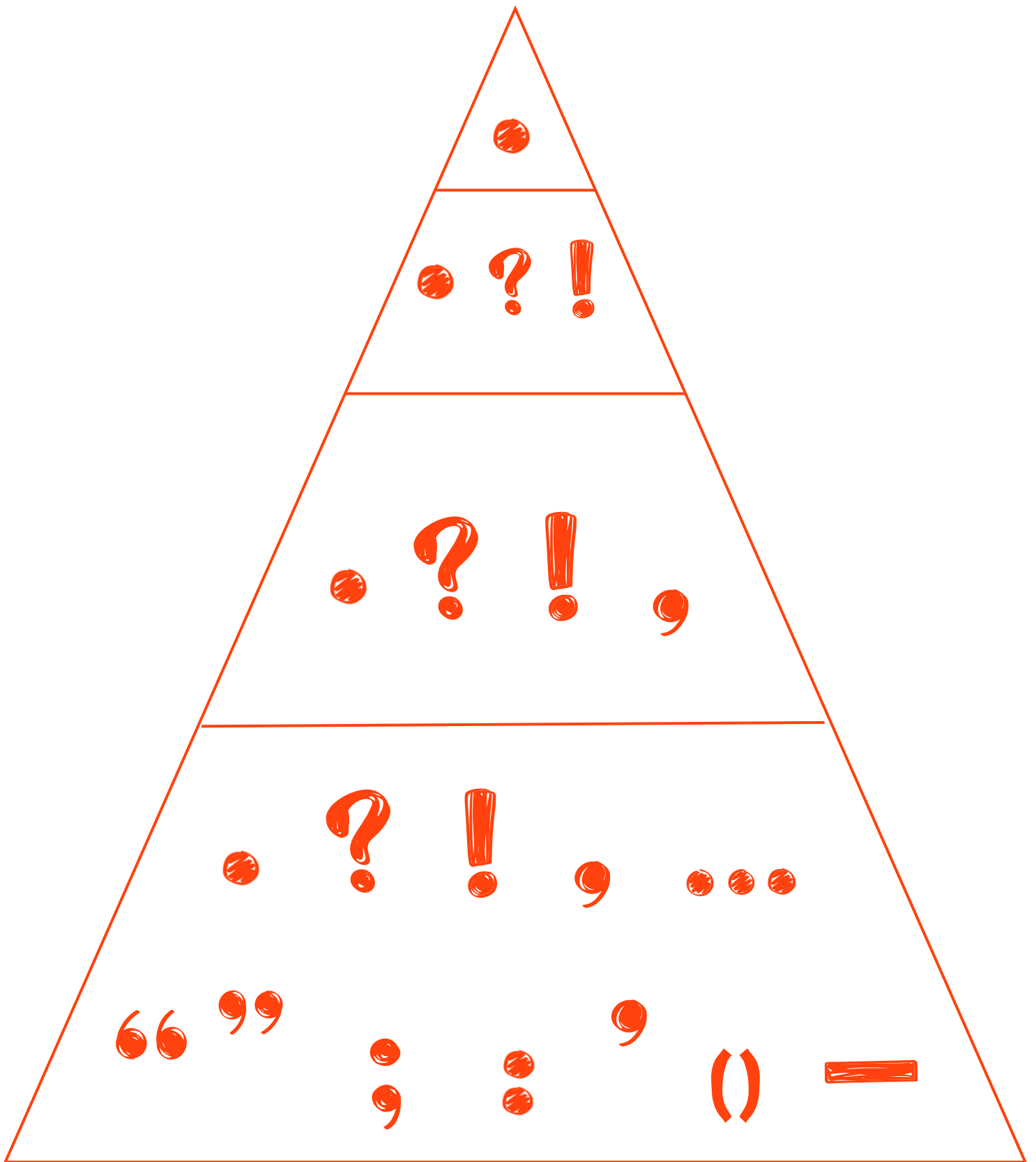
VCOP Pyramid - Conjunctions and Connectives



V COP Pyramid - Openers



VCOP Pyramid - Punctuation



Punctuation

Experiment making sentences with different punctuations that you could use in your story. Remember to always keep in mind what kind of emotion you want your character or reader to feel.



Connectives

Pick some connectives and make sentences that you could use in your story.

