

Zigzag & And
Editing & Revising — Independent Practice
Down the Rabbit-Hole

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

4.1 Add purposeful detail

Directions: Expand a correct but underdeveloped sentence with details that answer the reader's likely questions. Select details that make the event more precise; do not simply add every possible question word.

Worked example: *Alice looked.* becomes *During the slow fall, Alice examined the well's sides because the darkness below gave her no view of the bottom.* The revision adds time, object, place, and reason.

1. Revise *Alice followed the Rabbit*. Include the setting, the trigger for her curiosity, and the risk she overlooks. **Planning notes:**

(a) **setting**

Solution: across field; rabbit-hole under hedge

(b) **trigger**

Solution: watch from waistcoat-pocket

(c) **overlooked risk**

Solution: does not consider how to get out

Revision:

Solution: When the Rabbit took a watch from its waistcoat-pocket, Alice ran across the field after it and followed it into the rabbit-hole without considering how she would get out.

2. Revise *Alice talked*. Include the condition of her body, the topics she considers, and why the talk becomes repetitive. **Planning notes:**

(a) **condition**

Solution: becoming sleepy during long fall

(b) **topics**

Solution: earth; countries; Dinah; cats and bats

(c) **reason for repetition**

Solution: no answer; nothing else to do

Revision:

Solution: As she became sleepy during the long fall, Alice talked about the earth, countries, and Dinah, repeating the cats-and-bats question because she had no answer and nothing else to do.

4.2 Shape sentence variety

Directions: Revise a sequence so that its sentences differ in length, opening, and structure. Use variety to show time or emphasis, not merely to make the sentences look different.

Worked example: Plain: *Alice looked down. It was dark. She studied the sides.* Revised: *Alice looked down, but darkness hid the bottom. Instead, she studied the sides of the well. While she fell, she noticed shelves and maps.*

3. Revise the sequence so that the first sentence is brief, the second begins with *Although*, and the third begins with *Meanwhile*: *The Rabbit ran. Alice chased it. It went under the hedge.*

Solution: The Rabbit ran. Although Alice chased it across the field, it disappeared beneath the hedge. Meanwhile, Alice reached the rabbit-hole.

4. Join or separate these ideas to create three varied sentences: *The jar was labelled orange marmalade. It was empty. Alice feared dropping it. She put it in a cupboard.*

Solution: The jar was labelled orange marmalade, but it was empty. Because Alice feared dropping it on somebody below, she put it safely in a cupboard. Even during the fall, she acted with care.

5. Rewrite this sequence with a sentence beginning with *When* and a sentence that places the transition word *however* at the end: *Alice grew sleepy. She repeated a question. She could not answer it.*

Solution: When Alice grew sleepy, she repeated the question about cats and bats. She could not answer it, however.

4.3 Choose precise words

Directions: Replace each vague word with a specific verb, noun, or phrase. The new wording must add information about the action or feeling without changing the event.

Worked example: Vague: *The Rabbit went.* Precise: *The Rabbit hurried on.* The new verb shows speed and urgency.

6. Replace *looked* with a verb that shows Alice looked quickly into the book.

Solution: Alice peeped into the book her sister was reading.

7. Replace *did something with the jar* with a precise action.

Solution: Alice managed to put the empty jar into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.

8. Replace *said words* with a phrase that shows Alice's uncertainty about geography.

Solution: Alice wondered whether she would fall through the earth and come out among people with their heads downward.

9. Rewrite this vague sentence by naming Alice's specific geography question: *Alice had a strange thought.*

Solution: Alice wondered whether she would fall through the earth and reach New Zealand or Australia.

4.4 Develop a thin draft

Directions: Revise the draft into a focused paragraph. Add concrete details, connect ideas, vary the sentences, and make Alice's reasoning visible. Keep the source's sequence and do not invent a later event.

Worked example: Thin: *A Rabbit appeared. Alice followed. She fell. She saw things.*
Developed: *A White Rabbit with pink eyes changes Alice's quiet afternoon. After it says it will be late and takes a watch from its waistcoat-pocket, her curiosity sends her across the field. It disappears beneath the hedge, and Alice follows into a tunnel that dips into a deep well. During the long fall, she observes the well's objects and keeps asking questions.*

10. Develop this draft into a paragraph of at least four sentences. Include Alice's starting mood, the Rabbit's unusual signs, her choice, and the immediate consequence.

Alice was bored. A Rabbit appeared. It was unusual. Alice followed. She fell.

Solution: Alice is bored beside her sister on a hot day, and the book she peeps into has no pictures or conversations. Then a White Rabbit with pink eyes says it will be late and takes a watch from its waistcoat-pocket. These unusual signs awaken Alice's burning curiosity, so she runs across the field after it. When the Rabbit disappears beneath the hedge, Alice follows and soon falls into a very deep well.

4.5 Use comparisons to clarify

Directions: Write comparisons that make an unfamiliar detail easier to picture or understand. After each comparison, state the exact quality it clarifies. Avoid comparisons that merely add decoration.

Worked example: *The rabbit-hole stretched like a tunnel.* Quality clarified: *It was long, enclosed, and initially straight.*

11. Compare the shelves and cupboards along the well's sides to a familiar place. Then state the quality clarified.

Comparison:

Solution: The well's sides looked like the walls of a narrow library.

Quality clarified:

Solution: The comparison shows that Alice could see storage and bookshelves around her while falling.

12. Compare Alice's repeated question about cats and bats to something familiar. Then state the quality clarified.

Comparison:

Solution: Her question returned like a tune that repeats when no new answer appears.

Quality clarified:

Solution: The comparison shows that sleepiness and uncertainty made her thought circle back.

13. Improve this comparison so that it fits Alice's fall and explains a clear quality: *The fall was like a thing.*

Solution: The fall was like a long pause in which Alice had time to notice several objects beside her.

4.6 Edit for meaning and correctness

Directions: Edit the paragraph for boundaries, capitalization, punctuation, agreement, and precise wording. Then read it once to check that each sentence still expresses the intended relationship.

Worked example: Unedited: *alice looked down it was dark she looked at the sides.*
Edited: *Alice looked down, but it was dark, so she studied the sides.*

14. Edit: *the rabbit said it would be late alice saw its watch she became curious*

Solution: The Rabbit said it would be late, and Alice saw its watch. She became curious.

15. Edit: *alice took a jar it was empty she was careful she put it in a cupboard*

Solution: Alice took a jar, but it was empty. She was careful, so she put it in a cupboard.

16. Edit and improve this short paragraph: *the fall was long. alice saw things. she thought about countries but she did not know what would happen.*

Solution: The fall was long, so Alice had time to observe the well. She noticed cupboards, book-shelves, maps, and pictures. She also imagined different countries, although she did not know what would happen next.