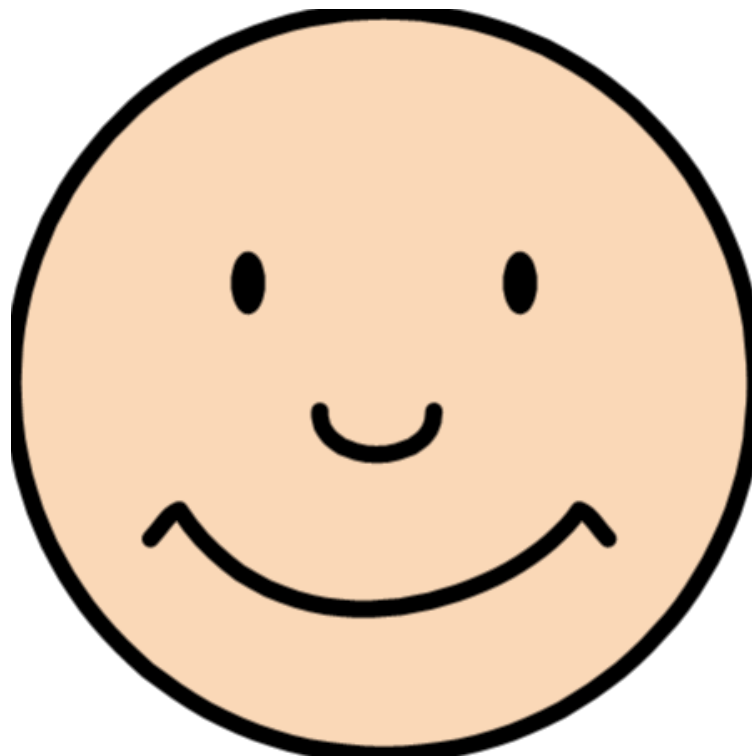


# Smiley Face Tricks



## Notes & Examples



1. **Magic Three**: Three groups of words, usually separated by commas that create a poetic rhythm or add support for a point, especially when the three word groups have their own modifiers.

**Examples:**

School uniforms are uncomfortable, unattractive, and unfashionable.

The terror in his eyes, his trembling hands, and the hoarse words “Run!” all made me realize I was in danger.



2. **Specific Details:** Instead of general, vague descriptions, specific sensory details help the reader visualize the person, place, thing, or idea being described.

**Examples:** She stomped home, hands jammed in her pockets, angrily kicking rocks, dogs, small children, and anything else that crossed her path.

The classroom smelled of 9th grade boy--a vain effort to cover P.E.'s effects with Axe body spray.



3. **Figurative Language**: Creative phrases that must be interpreted and cannot be taken literally.

**Examples:**

It's so fluffy; I'm gonna die!

My teacher is a creature with steam pouring out her nostrils, and horns peeking through her hair.



4. **Repetition For Effect**: Repeat specially chosen words or phrases to make a point, to stress certain ideas for the reader.

**Examples:**

The yellow carpet in my room was worn thin from my pacing back and forth, back and forth, like a tiger in a cage.

"Ja . . . Ja . . . Jab . . . I mean Jabari." I gasp, still in shock that she has picked me.



5. **Humor**: Try to make your reader laugh or at least smile by spicing it up.

**Examples:**

I spent an entire week cutting the tiny forest of vines, tall grass, oil filters, soda cans, and the biggest pair of women's underwear I had ever seen in my life.

I head down the hall, feeling like I have been stung by thousands of killer bees, bitten by dozens of rattlesnakes, or grounded for the rest of my life--or at least wishing I had been.



6. **Expanded Moment:** Instead of "speeding" past a moment, writers often emphasize it by "expanding" the action.

### Examples

Right after our first glimpse, my friend and I made the leap that would change us forever. Like sky divers without parachutes, like bungee jumpers without their cords, we leaped off the fifty-foot bridge. "Whoosh" was the sound we could hear as we plummeted to the green dirty, dank bayou.

Skiing past the sign that read, "THIN COVER," I thought to myself, *but it snowed 16" last night*. I turned to pause at the top of the drop-off but the snow slid beneath me and I began to plummet down an icy rock face barely hidden beneath a skiff of snow.



7. **Hyphenated Modifiers**: A new way of saying something that makes readers "sit up and take notice." Use hyphens to connect words in a phrase so that they become an adjective.

Examples

Downstairs my grandma, Stella, is wearing some kind of now-they-have-to-notice-me-in-my-day-glow-hot-pants outfit.

I look up from my computer into the I-think-she-really-might-bite-me eyes of another 7th graders who is behind on their story.

I gave my coach the I'm-really-tired-and-I-wish-we-could-stop-and-eat-brownies-for-the-rest-of-the-period-because-I-might-roll-over-and-die-before-I'm-fourteen-and-get-a-chance-to-live-a-full-exciting-life sigh.





8. **Full-Circle Ending**: Wrap up your writing by repeating or alluding to a sentence/phrase from the beginning of the passage.

### Examples

I wish I could begin with once upon a time, but it doesn't. Maybe once upon a never or maybe once upon a time I would like to erase. Or how about I can't get past my childhood where the walls are colliding without any air to breathe.

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Or maybe I could have begun with I live with my mother and my little brother on an old dirt road where silence is heard and always about like a plague. Maybe that would be more honest--to jump right in because it was once upon a time and it did seem like never and I can't get past it all.