

UNPACKING SENTENCES

Under most circumstances, a single sentence should convey a single idea, unless the sentence is setup to deliver two or more ideas deliberately. Style-wise, a good "rule of thumb" is to have a one-to-one ratio (one idea to one sentence).

EX:

Here is an example of a sentence which needs some unpacking of ideas:

When Marcia comes to work, she often takes her time playing with her computer and not thinking about her work.

Unpacked, the sentence might be broken into two or more sentences conveying the same ideas with more clarity.

Marcia is not very productive at work. She plays with her computer instead of working. And, she is not focused on her work.

Notice how we receive three really strong sentences from one long sentence.