Jane Austen Style Sheet

Understatements (litotes): use of a lesser expression than expected; often

with the "not un—" construction

Examples: "I am not entirely devoid of taste."

"An egg boiled very soft is not unwholesome."

Superlatives: the form of a word that indicates superiority over others of its

kind; often signaled by the word "most" or by the "-est" ending

Examples: "best guests," "dearest papa," "most fortunate circumstances,"

"most insufferable woman," "my greatest danger in

housekeeping," " the most amiable, affable, delightful woman"

Full character descriptions: physical, financial, home-place, personality, age,

and so forth

Example: "The Frank Churchill so long talked of, so high in interest, was

> actually before her—he was presented to her, and she did not think too much had been said in his praise; he was a very good

looking young man; height, air, address, all were

unexceptionable, and his countenance had a great deal of the

spirit and liveliness of his father's; he looked guick and

sensible."

Italics: use of italic typeface to distinguish words or phrases from a block of text

Examples: "she would notice," "half a glass of wine, a small half-glass"

Compound objects: direct objects or objects of prepositions that have more

than one component

"He had the chosen and the best to dine with him" (direct Example:

object); "for the elegancies and societies of Mr. W's drawing

room" (objects of a preposition)

Appositives: renaming of a noun immediately following the noun

Example: "Mr. Knightley, a sensible man of seven or eight-and thirty, was

not only an old and intimate friend..."

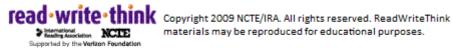
Compound sentences: a sentence made up of of two or more independent

clauses joined by a conjunction

Example: "They had been speaking of it as they walked about Highbury

they day before, and Frank Churchill had most earnestly

lamented her absence."



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Complex sentences: a sentence containing an independent clause and at least

one dependent clause

"She had great pleasure in hearing Frank Churchill talked of; **Example:**

and, for sake, greater pleasure than ever in seeing Mr. and Mrs. Weston; she was very often thinking of him, and guite impatient for a letter, that she might know how he was, how were his spirits, how was his aunt, and what was the chance of his

coming to Randalls again this spring."

Favorite vocabulary: words (particularly adjectives and adverbs) that are used

frequently in the text

Examples: artless, unexceptionable, tolerably, warmly, amiable, sentiment,

elegant

Parentheticals: phrases set aside by parentheses or dashes

Examples: "And have you never known the pleasure and triumph of a lucky

guess?—I pity you—I thought you cleverer—for dependent upon

it a lucky guess is never merely luck."

"'No' (in an accent not meant to be insinuating).

Antithesis: an assertion immediately followed by a negation of its opposite

Example: "But Mr. Elton had only drunk wine enough to elevate his spirits,

not at all to confuse his intellects."

Quoted indirect discourse: quotation marks around non-spoken thoughts in

> narration; though not spoken aloud, thoughts may suddenly be quoted to intensify the point of view.

Example: "Why she did not like Jane Fairfax might be a difficult question

> to answer; Mr. Knightley had one told her it was because she saw in her the really accomplished young woman she wanted to be...But 'she could never get acquainted with her...; there was such coldness and reserve;...because their ages were the same, everybody had supposed they must be so fond of each other.'

These were her reason. She had no better."

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