

## How to create interesting sentences

Read the paragraph below which is from the chapter 'Death in the long grass'. Look at the words and punctuation marks which are underlined: these make subordinate clauses. Horowitz has used them to create variation and add further description; he has sometimes put them at the beginning and sometimes in the middle of the sentence so that all of his sentences start with the words, 'Alex', 'He', 'They' or 'It'.

'But there was no one and they were coming for him again ... together they ... Alex could hear the engines, whining in unison, coming up fast behind him. Still limping, he glanced over his shoulder and saw them, one on each side, seemingly about to overtake him. It was only the glint of the sun and the sight of the grass slicing itself in half that revealed the horrible truth. The two cyclists had stretched a length of chain wire between them. Alex threw himself head-first flat on his stomach. The cheese wheel whipped over him. If he had still been standing up, it would have cut him in half.' (p.13)

*Stormbreaker*. © Anthony Horowitz, 2000

Before reading any more of the novel have a go at writing the paragraph that follows the one above and include the following phrases which are all subordinate clauses. Remember the subordinate clause can come anywhere in the sentence as long as it makes sense; you will need to use commas to distinguish each clause from the main clause:

- arcing away from each other
- half limping
- searching for somewhere to hide or something to defend himself with
- apart from the Game Boy and some money