

Handout 2

Ordering Shakespeare Around

Word order in Shakespearean Writing

When Shakespeare wrote his prose, he often used a slightly different word order than we are used to. The subject, verb, and object did not always follow in a 1, 2, 3 order. Look at the following sentence. Rewrite the sentence four times, changing the word order each time. Put one word on each blank provided below the original sentence.

Original Sentence: I lost my homework.

Rewrite #1: _____ _____ _____ _____.

Rewrite #2: _____ _____ _____ _____.

Rewrite #3: _____ _____ _____ _____.

Rewrite #4: _____ _____ _____ _____.

Look at each of your rewritten sentences above. Has the meaning of the original sentence changed? No matter how you word it...you're toast if your homework is lost!

Now, think about how Yoda spoke in the Star Wars Movies. We understood exactly what he was saying, even though the word order was slightly different than what we are used to hearing. It's your turn to makeup a short sentence like the one above and rewrite it several different ways. Does the meaning change with the rewrites? Share your sentences with your teacher and classmates.

Original Sentence: _____.

Rewrite #1: _____.

Rewrite #2: _____.

Rewrite #3: _____.

Rewrite #4: _____.