**Grammar Lesson 1: Short Sentence Types (There are 4 types of basic simple sentences)**

**The basic pattern of this the simple sentence includes the basic subject verb pattern.**

Examples taking from Artful Sentences: Syntax as Style by Virginia Tufte

**Type One: Equations with Be and may take a predicate nominative or a predicate adjective.**

Nat was Nat.

Bernard Malamud, *The Assistant, 130*

So that was that.

Eric Ambler*, Intrigue*

I was all humility. Rupert Brooke

She was exasperation, she was torture. Vladimir Nabokov*, Ada*

***Type Two: Linking Verbs (***feel, taste, look, smell, appear,grow,remain,stay,turn,seem,sound  
become,prove)

**Like the be-pattern, linking verbs take nouns as complements. Some of the linking verbs have a little more acute verb action than the be-verbs.**

Everything became a mist. C.S. Lewis, That Hideous Strength, 380.

War remains the decisive human failure. John Kenneth Galbraith

She looked new and fresh. Carolyn See

His mind turned opaque at the word. John Knowles

**Type Three: Intransitive verbs. These verbs have varying degrees of activity and do not take a direct object. Examples of these verbs include: agree, arrive, appear, become, collapse, collide, consist of, cost, depend, die, disappear, emerge, exist, fall, go, happen, knock (sound), laugh, lie, live, look, last (endure), occur, remain, respond, rise, sit, sleep, stand, stay, swim, vanish, wait**

Ida reddened. Bernard Malamud

Harmony settled over the kitchen. Norman Mailer

His eyes gleamed wearily. P.G. Wodehouse

The clouds were sitting on the land. William Golding, LOTG

**Type Four: Transitive Verbs. These take direct objects and can be used to express maximum activity.**

The room alarmed him. Brian Moore

Marlborough swallowed the bait. Fred Hoyle

She changes the subject immediately. F. Scott Fitzgerald

They peel the morning like a fruit. Lawrence Durrell

Enough pain makes people numb. Naomi Wolf, *The Beauty Myth*

Everyone has someone. Except me. Carolyn See

**Putting it together**

A. Identify the patterns in the following paragraph from James Agee, *A Death in the Family*

Somebody sighed, from the heart; he looked up; it was Hannah. They were looking downward and sidelong. His sister’s face had altered strangely among this silence; it had become thin, shy and somehow almost bridal. He remembered her wedding in Panama; yes, it was much the same face. He looked away.

B. Write a paragraph in which you use the four simple sentence patterns to describe the super size portions in a fast food restaurant. Begin the first sentence with to be, followed by a linking verb, an intransitive verb, and then ending the last with a transitive verb.