

# Writing Cheat Sheet

My top tips revealed. You write beautifully, but just in case!

1. Vary sentence length.

Writing is like music. Try to vary the sentence length, with no more than three short or long sentences in a row. Short sentences create melody and interest. See?

2. Use action verbs; minimize “to be” verbs.

“To be” verbs are generally inactive and non-descriptive. Liven up your writing by using exciting action verbs. This also forces you to be more descriptive.

For example, transform, “she is so friendly,” into, “She always takes time to talk with me.” Or, “That was a great movie,” into, “the movie featured compelling characters and beautiful scenery.”

You can DEFINITELY use “to be” verbs. I do all the time! It’s just something to think about.

3. The magic of 3.

I’m not sure what it is about this number, but including three of things is a common literary device.

*She loved her pain, passion and purpose. The time came to free her spirit, tell her truth and change her life.*

4. Remove extra words!

If you have time, edit your prose to give it life.

For example, I was going to say, “It’s good to run through your prose to tighten it up,” but the “it’s good to,” is superfluous, and “edit,” easily replaces, “run through.”

Or if you wrote, “end goal,” “end” is superfluous.

I’ve gotten reeeeeaaaaaalllllly lazy about this, but it does force you to write more powerfully, creating a better reader experience. And with short Instagram captions, every character matters. Often if I run out of space, tightening my writing saves the day!

What tips do you have? Share them in the Facebook group!