

POLYSYNDETON

...and...and...and

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Explanation of *Polysyndeton*: *Polysyndeton* is a list or series of words connected with the repeated use of the same conjunction.

➤ Purpose:

- ✓ Each word connected by the “and” (or any other conjunction) is more emphasized than without it
- ✓ Slows readers down so they can absorb the information fully
- ✓ Implies that both words or phrases connected by the conjunction are equal in some way
- ✓ Create a sense of endlessness
- ✓ Creates a sing-song rhythm

Etymology of Term:

- Comes from Greek *poly* (many) + *syndetos* (bound together)

Contrast to a Similar Term:

- *Polysyndeton*'s opposite: Asyndeton
- ✓ No conjunction used at all.

Latin Example:

Veni et vidi et vici. → I came and I saw and I conquered.

English Example:

John West has excellent organizational skills and superb interpersonal skills and outstanding written communication skills.

Both ands give the feeling that his list of skills could go on and on.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What are 3 purposes of *Polysyndeton*?
2. What is the etymology of *Polysyndeton*?
3. Would it be better to use *Polysyndeton* in a poem or a business document?