

Jack, Alex:

Original: “The history of the woodland Anishinabe - decimated by disease, fighting plains Indian tribes to the west and squeezed by European settlers to the east- is much like most other Native American stories, a confusion of loss, a tale of absences, of a culture that was blown apart and changed so radically in such a short time that only the names survive.”

Revised: “The history of the woodland Anishinabe is much like most other Native American stories. They were decimated by disease, fighting plains Indian tribes to the west and squeezed by European settlers to the east. Their story is a confusion of loss, a tale of absences, of a culture that was blown apart and changed so radically in such a short time that only the names survive.”

Original: “They had to be lucky. And if very lucky, they acquired carts.

Revised: “They had to be lucky, and the luckiest acquired carts.”

Comment: The combined sentence is about the same as the original pair of sentences because they both have similar brevity. If either is stronger, it would be the revised because it is more efficient and removes the need for the use of an adverb.

Kevin, Adam, Asante

Original: “She was the great-great granddaughter of the daughter of the principal leader of the *A-waus-e*, the Bullhead clan, a woman whose real name was never recorded but who, on marrying a Frenchman, was recreated as Madame Cadotte”

Broken Up:

“She was the great-great-great-granddaughter of the A-waus-e, the Bullhead clan. Her real name was never recorded but, on marrying a Frenchman, was recreated as Madame Cadotte

Comment: We think the second sentence is better because it conveys the exact same ideas in a more clear and concise way.

Original: “The Navajo have been particularly skillful at keeping their language alive. In order to get their Anglicized kids to see that Navajo is worth knowing, tribe educators work on giving it cachet.”

Combined: The Navajo tribe educators work on giving their language cachet to keep their language alive amongst their Anglicized kids, and they have been particularly skillful at doing so.

Comment: We think the original version is better. The first sentence of the original version

Ethan Umar Charlie

ORIGINAL: “If a Nez Perce Indian says, ‘The day will be stormy,’ the ‘will be’ might mean the speaker saw the clouds gathering, or that someone else told her it would storm, or that she had a vision in which a storm was imminent.”

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BROKEN UP REVISION: “The day will be stormy” might have multiple meanings to Nez Perce Indians. It could indicate that the speaker saw clouds gathering, heard it would storm, or had a vision of a storm.

ORIGINAL: “My mother knits, sews, cans, dries food and preserves it. She knows how to gather tea, berries, snare rabbits, milk cows, and churn butter.”

Page 130 Paragraph 17

COMBINED REVISION: My mother knits, sews, dries and preserves food, gathers tea and berries, snares rabbits, milks cows, and churns butter.

Olivia, Sarah GP

Long sentence:

Original: “The history of the woodland Anishinabe....”, page 47, end of paragraph 1

Broken up: The history of the woodland Anishinabe, much like most other Native American stories, is a tale of absences of a culture that was blown apart. They were decimated by disease, they fought with Plains Indian tribes to the west, and were pushed to the east by European settlers. Everything changed so radically in such a short amount of time that only the names survive.

And yet, those names.

Short sentence:

Original: “They had to have been lucky. And if very lucky, they acquired carts.”

New: They had to have been lucky, and if they were, they acquired carts.

Alex & Sarah

Long sentence

Original: The daughters of... the tribe each winter. (pg 48, 2nd full paragraph, 6th sentence)

Remix: The daughters of my own ancestors, *Kwayzancheewin-Acts Like a Boy* and *Striped Earth Woman*-go unrecorded. No hint or reflection of their individual natures comes to light through the scatter-shot records of those times, although they must have been genetically tough in order to survive: there were epidemics of typhoid, flu, measles, and other diseases that winnowed the tribe each winter.

Comment: The separation gives the reader a break in Erdrich's chain of thoughts.

Short sentences

Original: There are ways of staunching the ruin. Linguists...video and audio tape. (pg 46, 2nd full paragraph, first 2 sentences)

Remix: There are ways of staunching the ruin: linguists are desperately trying to locate the last elderly speakers of various languages and get them on video and audiotape.

Comment: We prefer the first version. The shortness of the first sentence sounds right as the introduction to the paragraph.

Jan Jared and Martin-

Original Sentence - "The names of the first women whose existence is recorded on the rolls of the Turtle Mountain reservation, in 1892, reveal as much as we can ever recapture of their personalities, complex natures, and relationships"

Broken up - The names of the first women reveal we can recapture personalities, complex natures, and relationships. They were recorded in 1892, on the rolls of the Turtle Mountain reservation.

Original Sentences - "They had to have been lucky. And if very lucky, they acquired carts."

Combined - "They had to be lucky, and if lucky enough, they could acquire carts."

Comments: We think that our combined sentences are on about the same level - if anything, they lose some meaning. We think that if we had put a lot more time in searching for bad sentences, changes probably could have been made.

Kathryn, Isandro, Yichen-

Original: The history of the woodland Anishinabe ... that only the names survive (The Names of Women, 47).

New: The history of the woodland Anishinabe is much like other Native American stories: confusion of loss, a tale of absences, and of a culture that was blown apart and changed so radically in such a short time that only the names survive. There were decimated by disease, fought Plains Indian tribes to the west, and were squeezed by European settlers to the east.

Comment: The original sentence flows better, but the new sentence that we made is less confusing.

Original: Yes, but should...Tower of Babel slowly crumbles?

New: Yes, but if the Tower of Babel slowly crumbles, should the rest of us care?

Comment: It is more straightforward, and gets the point across in less space. It's also less redundant.