

# Text to Film ---> Film to Text

**Procedure:** After watching the clips from *Jaws* and *The Matrix*, you need to do what Peter Benchley did, but in reverse order. Write five simple core sentences that go along with the opening scene from *The Matrix*. Try to capture the basic image by using specific words. Be sure to use sensory details, or words that deal with all five senses, when you create these sentences.

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Example:

**Core Sentence #1:** Trinity sprinted across the rooftop.

(notice *sprinted* rather than *ran*.)

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Now, add a revision technique, to give the sentence a fuller image.

**Sentence #1 Revised:**

Trinity, fearful that the Agent would catch her, sprinted across the rooftop.

(Adjectives out of order)

HERE IS THE HARD PART! **Evaluate** your sentence! My first effort is good, but it is not great. You need to be able to say that about *your* writing if you ever hope to improve it. I decided to switch the revision technique.

**Sentence #1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Revision:** *Heels hammering the slick tin rooftop like hammer blows*, Trinity sprinted across the rooftop.

(absolute – heels hammering)

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Look at the effort again. I like this one a lot better, but it still needs another tweak. Did you notice that I used the word *rooftop* twice and the word *hammer* twice in the same sentence? It sounds a little awkward, a little repetitive in a bad way. To make it better, I need to change the repeated words. Changing “hammer” is done easily enough, but what else can I call the rooftop? I mean, it is a rooftop! So I went back in for another crack at it:

**Sentence #1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision:** *Heels pounding the slick tin like hammer blows*, Trinity sprinted across the rooftop.

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And I am done! All I did to revise the sentence was to remove the first *rooftop*. Style-wise, I kind of like the mystery about the *tin* in the revision technique. The reader may be unsure what tin I am talking about at first, but the “rooftop” in the core sentence tells him/her that the rooftop is made of tin.

All of this revising took fewer than 3 minutes. **Revising is not proofreading for errors!** Revising is changing the content of your writing. Without revision, you will be left with crusty mustard for the rest of your life, and no one wants that. :-P