

Flat to Snappy (at least Snappier)

Below are your original sentences followed by edited versions. Consider the changes: how do they tighten the prose, shift emphasis, improve clarity?

In the quartos of *Henry IV, Part 1*, there are many subtle differences between each of the texts.

There are many subtle differences between the quartos of *Henry IV, Part 1*.

The quartos of *Henry IV, Part 1* reveal many subtle differences.

Careful examination of the quartos of *Henry IV, Part 1* reveals many subtle differences.

There are differences in punctuation between the Garrick versions of the first and eighth quartos in *Henry IV, Part 1, Act 3, Scene 2*. In this scene, King Henry . . .

The Garrick versions of the first and eighth quartos in *Henry IV, Part 1*, hold significant (subtle / meaningful / slight) differences in punctuation. In Act 3, Scene 2, King Henry . . .

The first and eighth quartos of *Henry IV, Part 1*, hold significant (subtle / meaningful / slight) differences in punctuation. In Act 3, Scene 2, King Henry . . .

Looking at Hal's speech regarding how he will hide his true nature in terms of punctuation, surprisingly little is changed. One change that did occur was at the second line, which in a modern edition of the text states, ". . . ."

In terms of punctuation, Hal's speech regarding his true nature changes surprisingly little. One small change occurs in the second line, which in a modern edition reads, ". . . ."

Since it was first written, around 1596, Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 1* has gone through many changes. One of these changes is that of punctuation and although it may seem subtle at first, a closer inspection might allow us to see how it might be more significant than we realize.

Since it was first written around 1596, Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 1* has undergone many changes. Punctuation is one of these changes, and although it may seem subtle at first, a closer inspection allows us to see that it is more significant than we realize.

Since its first printing in 1598, Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 1* has undergone many changes in punctuation. Although these changes may seem subtle at first, a closer inspection reveals that they are more significant than generally understood.

[HERE WE ARE WELL INTO THE ESSAY; TEXT FROM THE 3RD QUARTO HAS JUST BEEN QUOTED.]
While comparing the text from that scene to *Henry IV, Part 1*, the 8th quarto from 1639, there are multiple punctuation differences that impact the way the scene can be read. However, one example is the difference in capitalization.

Compared with the same scene in the 8th quarto from 1639, there are multiple punctuation differences that impact the way the scene can be read. One glaring example is the difference in capitalization.

When compared with the same scene in the 8th quarto from 1639, multiple different punctuations are found and impact the way the scene can be read. One glaring example is the alteration in capitalization.

When compared with the same scene in the 8th quarto, multiple different punctuations are found and impact our reading of the scene. The alteration in capitalization is one glaring example.

Within the text of *Henry IV Part 1* 1st Quarto from 1598, there is a section where punctuation is different from a later version which conveys two very different messages.

The punctuation of the 1st Quarto from 1598 differs significantly from the later version; the two editions convey two very different messages.

The punctuation of the 1st Quarto differs significantly from the later version; two very different messages are conveyed.

There are many differences in punctuation in the second quarto compared with the eighth quarto of the play for this speech.

When comparing this speech as found in the second quarto with the eighth quarto, many differences in punctuation can be found.

Comparing this speech in the second quarto with the eighth, several differences in punctuation are seen.

Although this little punctuation mark is a tiny alteration, it can change the way the King says the entire speech.

Although this punctuation mark is a small alteration, it changes the way the King delivers the entire speech.

As the rules for spelling and other mechanics of the 17th c. English were not rigidly set, both editions contain obvious discrepancies in spelling, (“f” representing “s,” “u” representing “v,” hyphenations, oddly placed apostrophes, or the dropping of dialectal word endings: “st”).

As the rules for spelling and other mechanics of seventeenth-century English were not rigidly set, both editions contain obvious discrepancies in spelling: “f” representing “s,” “u” representing “v,” hyphenations, oddly placed apostrophes, or the dropping of dialectal word endings, such as “st.”