

From His Article in *The New York Times*:

An Analysis of the Style of David Foster Wallace

That's just that that's not all he is. There's also his intelligence, his occult anticipation, his court sense, his ability to read and manipulate opponents, to mix spins and speeds, to misdirect and disguise, to use tactical foresight and peripheral vision and kinesthetic range instead of just rote pace — all this has exposed the limits, and possibilities, of men's tennis as it's now played.

Which sounds very high-flown and nice, of course, but please understand that with this guy it's not high-flown or abstract. Or nice. In the same emphatic, empirical, dominating way that Lendl drove home his own lesson, Roger Federer is showing that the speed and strength of today's pro game are merely its skeleton, not its flesh. He has, figuratively and literally, re-embodied men's tennis, and for the first time in years the game's future is unpredictable. You should have seen, on the grounds' outside courts, the variegated ballet that was this year's Junior Wimbledon. Drop volleys and mixed spins, off-speed serves, gambits planned three shots ahead — all as well as the standard-issue grunts and booming balls. Whether anything like a nascent Federer was here among these juniors can't be known, of course. Genius is not replicable. Inspiration, though, is contagious, and multiform — and even just to see, close up, power and aggression made vulnerable to beauty is to feel inspired and (in a fleeting, mortal way) reconciled.

Sentence Length

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Some Sentence Types¹

- Main clause
 - Sentence opener + main clause + sentence closer
 - Main clause + sentence closer
 - Main clause with sentence interrupter
 - Main clause with sentence interrupter + main clause
 - Main clause with sentence interrupter + sentence closer
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- Jules and Jim created heaven and earth.
 - In the beginning, Jules and Jim created heaven and earth, making each a separate realm.
 - Jules and Jim created heaven and earth, making each a separate realm.
 - Jules and Jim, in the beginning, created heaven and earth.
 - Jules and Jim, in the beginning, created heaven and earth, and they made each a separate realm.
 - Jules and Jim, in the beginning, created heaven and earth, making each a separate realm.

¹ Except for “main clause,” the other terms are not “technical” usage. Some “Sentence Types can be sentence fragments.

Sentence Structure

That's just that that's not all he is. There's also his intelligence, his occult anticipation, his court sense, his ability to read and manipulate opponents, to mix spins and speeds, to misdirect and disguise, to use tactical foresight and peripheral vision and kinesthetic range instead of just rote pace — all this has exposed the limits, and possibilities, of men's tennis as it's now played.

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Some Sentence Types²

- Main clause (including fragment)
- Sentence opener + main clause + sentence closer
- Main clause + sentence closer
- Main clause with sentence interrupter
- Main clause with sentence interrupter + main clause
- Main clause with sentence interrupter + sentence closer

² 1. Except for “main clause,” the other terms are not “technical” usage. 2. Some “Sentence Types” can be sentence fragments. 3. Occasionally, the six “Sentence Types” don't completely describe the color-coded ¶s above them because Wallace uses more than just those six types of sentences.