

syntax = rules and principles that govern the sentence structure of the language

ASSEMBLING AND DISASSEMBLING SENTENCES: THE LINK BETWEEN WRITING AND COMPREHENDING

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I. What's In A Word? Understanding Word Relationships

- Sentence Building & Understanding at the Word Level
- Parts of Speech - Exploring Relationships

II. What's in a Sentence? Understanding Sentence Part Relationships

- Sentence Building & Understanding at the Phrase/Clause Level
- Clauses & Phrases - Exploring Relationships

to get the PowerPoint go to <http://www.wvced.com/request-handout/>

Some References to Consider

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Parts of Speech: Consider the job the word does in the sentence.

• noun	names a person, place, thing, (idea)	John, school, bench, (peace)
• verb	action word (also can be linking or helping)	jump, (is, were, will be)
• pronoun	takes the place of a noun	he, you, they, me
• adjective	describes a noun or pronoun (includes articles)	ugly, sleepy, blue
• adverb	describes a verb (or adjective or other adverb)	quickly, soon, never
• preposition	begins a phrase (trick: anything you can do to a box)	in, through, around
• conjunction	joins 2 words or 2 groups of words	and, whenever, if

Sentence Parts: Clauses are the building blocks of all sentences.

subject	what's doing the action (the "doer")	<u>The old man</u> went to the store.
simple subject	subject without modifiers	The old <u>man</u> went to the store.
predicate	verb plus its baggage (the "do")	The old man <u>went to the store</u> .
simple predicate	verb without modifiers	The old man <u>went</u> to the store.
clause	group of words with subject and predicate	the old man went to the store
independent clause	clause that can stand by itself	if the athletic woman wins
dependent clause	clause that cannot stand by itself	I the old man went to the store
		D if the athletic woman wins
simple sentence	one independent clause	I The old man went to the store.
compound sentence	2 independent clauses joined by comma + for, and, nor, but, or, yet or 2 independent clauses joined by ;	I,cI John went to the store, but it was closed.
		I;I John went to the store; it was closed.
complex sentence	1 independent clause and 1 or more dependent clauses	ID John went to the store because he needed milk.
		D,I When John went to the store, he forgot his wallet.
		I D John, who was angry at himself, stomped to his car without the milk.

Selected Advanced Phrases: Advanced elements have, at their root, a much simpler sentence component.

appositive	noun/pronoun that renames adjacent noun/pronoun	Denzel Washington, <u>an impressive actor</u> , has a commanding presence on the screen.
participial	verb used as adjective (often ends in -ing/-ed)	The cat <u>sleeping on the doorstep</u> belongs my neighbor.

Organizing from Simplest to Most Complex: Adjectives and adverbs can be words, phrases, and clauses.

	<i>adjective</i>	<i>adverb</i>
word	<u>hilarious</u> teacher	slept <u>soundly</u>
phrase	teacher <u>in the classroom</u>	slept <u>on the couch</u>
clause	teacher <u>who jokes in class</u>	slept <u>because she was exhausted</u>

A. CLAUSE/PHRASE ACTIVITIES

Identify each group of words below as a clause (C) or a phrase (P).

Remember that a clause must contain a subject and its verb (or predicate):

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ after our visit to the zoo | _____ as soon as we pack for the trip |
| _____ as I was walking the dog this morning | _____ to my left on the playing field |
| _____ on the street corner beside the mailbox | _____ before the television show starts |
| _____ just as the boy reached the finish line | _____ before sunset |
| _____ now that you have arrived | _____ during the long, boring game |
| _____ underneath the seat in front of you | _____ once I figure out the answer |
| _____ whenever I study carefully | _____ always ahead of time |

All the groups of words below are clauses. Identify each as I (independent or main) or D (dependent or subordinate):

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ I charged my iPhone this morning | _____ unless the game goes into overtime |
| _____ now that you won the championship | _____ Jackie Robinson joined an all-white team |
| _____ plants need water to survive | _____ Al Capone was nabbed for tax evasion |
| _____ after I bought a candy bar | _____ if you take your sister with you |
| _____ President Kennedy was shot in 1963 | _____ Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag |
| _____ when President Reagan spoke | _____ though Gregor Mendel discovered genetics |
| _____ before Huck Finn faked his own death | _____ even if you clean your room |

B. SENTENCE PART MATCHING

Subject

The wild gorilla

The tidal wave

The elderly gentleman

Predicate

used a cane to cross the street.

found his troop in a nearby clearing.

devastated the small coastal town.

Subject

The boy's kick

Shovelling

The window fan

Verb

sent

created

did not improve

Object

the icy sidewalk.

the ball out of bounds.

a nice breeze.

C. SENTENCE UNSCRAMBLING

1. At the word cluster level:

1. in our house we discovered much to our surprise \$10,000
2. to get ice cream we rode at noon our new bicycles to the store

2. At the word level:

1. frog brown rock under a crawled the large
 2. friend night all we and video new a my got game played
-

D. SENTENCE IMITATING

Write a sentence that is similar in form to the provided sentence:

1. Our friends came for dinner.
 2. At the game we saw a home run.
 3. While I was riding my bike, I saw a streak of lightning.
-

E. SENTENCE COMBINING

1. Combine the information into a single sentence:

- The man and woman went to the mall. The man was tall. The woman was short.
- The dinosaur stomped. He did it over the rocky ground. He did it to chase food.

2. Make each pair of sentences into a compound sentence:

- The new video game hit stores yesterday. We were the first ones to get it. (and)
- Two rivers surrounded the town. There was still not enough water to drink.

3. Make each pair of sentences into a complex sentence using the provided keyword:

- She was a good teacher. She yelled a lot. (although)
- You do your homework. You will pass every test.

4. Combine into one sentence. Do not leave out any information:

- The movie was excellent. It ran quite late. It starred Denzel Washington.
 - We were hungry. We went to my favorite restaurant. I ordered a burger and fries.
 - My cousins are from Australia. They visited us last month. We had a blast.
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F. SENTENCE EXPANSION

The students complained.

expand the subject

what kind? _____
which one? _____
how many? _____

expand the predicate

when? _____
where? _____
how? _____
why? _____
concession... _____

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

IECC: IDENTIFY, EXPAND, COMBINE, CREATE

Adjectives

Identify: Underline the adjectives in the following sentences. (Do not include articles.)

1. The hungry green alligator slithered up the muddy shore. (3)
2. The young girl was scared but brave. (3)
3. The frightened girl called to her father in a loud voice. (3)

Check your work!

Expand: Add at least 3 adjectives to each sentence to make it more descriptive.

1. The children and their leader took vans to a campground.

2. Over a campfire, the children roasted hotdogs and sang songs.

Share: Choose #1 or #2 to share with your group.

Combine: Combine the following short sentences into one longer sentence.

1. My grandfather told jokes at the table. He is friendly. His jokes were funny.

2. My sisters and I listened to the jokes and ate snacks. My sisters were hungry. The snacks were sweet.

Check your work!

Create: Write your own sentences.

1. Write a sentence using these adjectives: happy, energetic

2. Write a sentence with at least two of your own adjectives in it:

Share: Choose #1 or #2 to share with your group.