

SENTENCE SENSE EXERCISES

Part I: Phrases and Clauses

Each of these groups of words is a clause because each contains both a subject and a verb. Some clauses are full sentences (independent), but others are not. A phrase can never be a full sentence by itself because it never contains both a subject and a verb.

Exercise 1

Identify the subject and the verb in each of the following examples by underlining the subject once and the verb twice.

1. his parents grounded him for six weeks
2. after she sang her solo at the state music festival
3. because the policeman was in a very good mood
4. Hubert made dinner for his parents on their anniversary
5. if apathetic class has any desire to win this Homecoming float contest
6. my friend, Gertrude, always tells my secrets to others
7. the after-prom breakfast was a huge, but messy, success
8. the ballerina was dancing across the floor
9. I was proud of my good sales technique
10. I have been waiting for you all day

Exercise 2

Identify the following groups of words as either phrases (P) or clauses (C).

- _____ 1. Jeremy swallowed his gum
- _____ 2. if Tom had been careful
- _____ 3. Suzi's bank account in Switzerland
- _____ 4. when the movie is over
- _____ 5. before the game in Yankee Stadium
- _____ 6. snickering, giggling and being very silly

- _____ 7. since he has written only two sentences
- _____ 8. dissecting frogs in Biology
- _____ 9. Gary's garage has the best gasoline prices in town
- _____ 10. a '57 Chevy mag wheels and four on the floor

Exercise 3

Indicate whether each of the following clauses is independent (I) or dependent (D).

- _____ 1. Shirley has baboon breath
- _____ 2. when President Ford was an All-American center at Michigan
- _____ 3. if you plan to visit Toronto this winter
- _____ 4. Irving quit his job last week
- _____ 5. who was a famous American photographer
- _____ 6. because Rochester gets too much snow
- _____ 7. the dress that I bought
- _____ 8. because John asked Hortense to the prom
- _____ 9. which he had purchased
- _____ 10. Louise won the diving competition
- _____ 11. that you tried your best
- _____ 12. whoever wants to win
- _____ 13. wherever I go
- _____ 14. whose book I just read
- _____ 15. which tie he wanted to wear

Exercise 4

Each of the following sentences contains an underlined dependent clause. Identify the dependent clause as an adverb clause (ADV), an adjective clause (ADJ), or a noun clause (N). You can make this determination by paying close attention to the function (use) of the clause in the larger meaning of the sentence.

Ex: She told whoever would listen her complaint about her teacher.
whoever would listen is the indirect object of told: therefore, it is a noun clause, (N)

- _____ 1. Take the layout to the printer who gives the best price.
- _____ 2. When the holiday season begins, the stores are jammed with frantic shoppers.
- _____ 3. We want to know how we should dress.
- _____ 4. Frankenstein's monster, which Mary Shelley first envisioned in a dream in 1816, is often thought to symbolize the outcast in society.
- _____ 5. Daydreaming when I should be working is a big problem for me.
- _____ 6. Go to the store and buy whatever is on my list.
- _____ 7. The flight that we were scheduled to take was cancelled.
- _____ 8. Trish annoys Tom more than she annoys me.
- _____ 9. We went to buy ice cream after the dance was over.
- _____ 10. Even though he had paid his overdue bills, the company cancelled his credit card.

Part II: Types of Sentences

Simple sentences contain one independent clause; **compound** sentences contain two or more independent clauses.

Exercise 5

In the space provided, indicate whether each of the following sentences is a simple sentence (S) or a compound sentence (C). Add all necessary punctuation. You may need to refer to the other Sentence Sense packets for review.

- _____ 1. Mary and Henry went to the mall this morning.
- _____ 2. Mr. Peterson's store was robbed last weekend.
- _____ 3. I want to take Hilda to the party but my acne is acting up.
- _____ 4. I can go either to Toronto or to Penn Yan this weekend.
- _____ 5. Jack would like to make out with Frieda however she does not like him.

- ___ 6. Erin is acting in the school play and playing on the basketball team.
- ___ 7. Herbie does not use his free time very well he now has a D average.
- ___ 8. Tina is a great tennis player but she is not competitive by nature
- ___ 9. Tommy and Rob are stars of the soccer team consequently they are very popular.
- ___ 10. Randolph is moving to Wisconsin his father has been transferred.

Complex sentences contain both an independent and a dependent clause. Remember: there are three types of dependent clauses: the adverb clause, the adjective clause, and the noun clause.

Exercise 6

Beside each of the following complex sentences identify the type of dependent clause that is present and fill in all necessary commas.

- ___ 1. Todd left camp before I had a chance to say goodbye.
- ___ 2. Hilda always eats five eggs with toast before she leaves for school.
- ___ 3. Whenever I don't do my homework Mr. Frisbee calls on me.
- ___ 4. Since our team is small and slow we will probably not have an undefeated season.
- ___ 5. Helda won't be able to eat three submarine sandwiches for lunch if she has a her jaws wired shut.
- ___ 6. If Mr. Drake does not start buying us breakfast our entire homeroom will stage a strike.
- ___ 7. Our entire homeroom will stage a strike if Mr. Drake does not start buying us breakfast.
- ___ 8. Unless I memorize every Civil War battle I'll never pass Mr. Krank's test.
- ___ 9. I'll never pass Mr. Krank's test unless I memorize every Civil War battle.
- ___ 10. I'll have to get a good job before I can afford a new ten-speed bike.

Exercise 7

Beside each of the following sentences, identify the sentence as simple (S), compound (C), or complex (CX). Fill in all necessary punctuation.

- ___ 1. Seymour and Jeremy bought and paid for a dune buggy last summer.

- ___ 2. I will love whatever you give me for my birthday.
- ___ 3. Governors who take bribes from construction companies betray the public trust.
- ___ 4. Butch and his girl bought matching sweatshirts and sneakers.
- ___ 5. James wanted to go to the drive-in but Betty Lou wanted to see a movie.
- ___ 6. The swimmer whom I coached last year qualified for the Olympic trials.
- ___ 7. You will find your key where you left it.
- ___ 8. Which section of the country a college is in is an important consideration.
- ___ 9. The doctor determined that she had the measles.
- ___ 10. My brother bought some stamps yesterday and he mounted them in his stamp album last night.
- ___ 11. Mary had looked forward to the concert at Finger Lakes however it was cancelled because of rain.
- ___ 12. Although everyone knows the cafeteria is a mess no one knows what to do about it.
- ___ 13. The officer picked up the child whose arm was broken.
- ___ 14. Whomever you select for the job will be hired.
- ___ 15. The peasant farmers who till the Nile Delta still work in the ancient ways of their Ancestors.
- ___ 16. The judge sustained the lawyer's objection and would not allow the surprise witness to testify.
- ___ 17. Because many countries refuse to accept even a partial ban on whale hunting some species of whales are nearing extinction.
- ___ 18. Harold's dog likes Purina Cat Chow.
- ___ 19. Even though he has the best equipment available we all know Ted is still not a good squash player.
- ___ 20. The football players are practicing everyday consequently they all have sore muscles.