

8th Grade ELA Sentence Style Sheet

Compound Sentences

1. Compound Sentence Joined by a Comma & Conjunction

- Bill misbehaved in class, and the teacher made him stay after school.
- Conjunctions: and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet

2. Compound Sentence Joined by a Semicolon

- That was a good game; our team played well.

3. Compound Sentence with a *Conjunctive Adverb

- I did not study; therefore, I failed the test.

- *Conjunctive Adverbs:

consequently, furthermore, hence, however, meanwhile, moreover, nonetheless, otherwise, rather, then, therefore, thus, also, besides, still

conversely, instead, similarly, likewise, accordingly, next, finally, naturally, indeed, certainly, afterward, later, subsequently

- Remember—a compound sentence has at least two subjects and two verbs...they are underlined in the sentences above.

Complex Sentences

4. *Adjective Clause

- *Adjective clauses usually begin with: *who, whose, whom, which, or that*.

A. Use commas with proper nouns.

- i. George Washington, who did not chop down the cherry tree, demonstrated great leadership skills.

B. Use commas when the clause starts out with the word **WHICH**.

- i. The novel, which I enjoyed, was written by Homar Hickam.

C. Do NOT use a comma if the clause begins with the word **THAT**.

- i. The novel that I read was written by Homer Hickam.

5. Adverb Clause

- *Adverb clauses begin with *subordinating conjunctions.*
 - A. If the sentence starts out with an adverb clause, USE a COMMA!
 - Because we had a flat tire, we were late for class.
 - B. IF the sentence ends with the adverb clause, DO NOT use a comma!
 - We were late for class because we had a flat tire.

*Subordinating conjunctions:

after, before, once, since, until, when, whenever, while, as, because,

so that, even if, provided that, unless, although, even though, though, where, wherever, rather than, than, whether, as if, when, while

Sentences with Verbals

6. Sentences that use infinitive phrases, gerund phrases, and participial phrases

A. Sentence with an *infinitive phrase*

- *To dance gracefully* is my ambition. (The infinitive is the subject of this sentence.)
- Her plan *to become a millionaire* fell through when the stock market crashed. (The infinitive modifies "plan" so it is an adjective here.)
- She wanted *to become a veterinarian*. (The infinitive is the direct object.)
- John went to college *to study engineering*. (The infinitive is an adverb here—it tells "why" he went to college.)

B. Sentence with a *gerund phrase*

- *Walking in the moonlight* is a romantic way to end a date. (gerund as the subject)
- He particularly enjoyed *walking in the moonlight with his girlfriend*. (Gerund as the direct object.)
- He wrote a poem about *walking in the moonlight*. (Gerund as the object of preposition)

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- *Walking the dog* is not my favorite task. (Gerund as subject)

C. Sentence with a participial phrase

A participial is an –ed or –ing word being used as an adjective (notice in the sentences below “blind” and “swim” can often function as verbs but are being used as adjectives here)

- *Blinded by the light*, Sarah walked into the concert hall.
- John, *swimming for his life*, crossed the English Channel.

Phrase Toolbox

Absolute Phrase

An absolute phrase is a modifying parenthetical or subordinate phrase of a root sentence that includes a subject but does not have an acting verb so cannot stand on its own as sentence: “Their effort to regain the lead successful, the team continued to score until they pulled ahead by a wide margin.”

Appositive Phrase

-restates a preceding term, or expands or explains it, in a parenthetical statement. There are three variations of appositive phrases: “Her dog, **a bull mastiff**, looks ridiculous with a pink bow stuck to her head” features a noun phrase. “His favorite hobby, **knitting**, is rather unusual for a man” includes a gerund phrase. “The Tahitian’s ambition, **to become an ice skater**, is unexpected” has an infinitive phrase.

Gerund Phrase

A gerund phrase includes a verbal, a hybrid that functions as a noun (or adjective). There are three distinct functions: “**Juggling knives** is not recommended as a relaxation technique” includes a gerund phrase as the subject of the sentence. “I’m **going for a long walk off a short pier**” features a gerund phrase as the sentence’s object. “She’s saving up for **a vacation in Antarctica**” has a gerund phrase as the object of a preposition.

Infinitive Phrase

An infinitive phrase includes the word to and a verb as the basis of a modification of a root sentence: “His effort **to pass the bill** doomed his political ambitions” includes an infinitive phrase that functions as an adjective modifying the previous noun. “He plans **to see the movie**” features an infinitive phrase that functions as the sentence’s object. “**To write of the experience** is to dredge up unpleasant memories” has an infinitive phrase that functions as the sentence’s subject. “To say as much is to admit guilt” includes an infinitive phrase that serves as predicate nominative, or a substitute subject. “I went to the store to buy some ice cream” features an infinitive phrase that stands as an adverb (modifying the verb went).

Noun Phrase

A noun phrase consists of a person, place, or thing and any modifiers: “This is *a grammar lesson*.” It may include one or more adjectives (as grammar modifies lesson here). It might include a noun and a modifying clause: “This is *a lesson that explains the various types of phrases*.” It might take the form of one of three other types of phrase: infinitive, participial, and prepositional. (The infinitive phrase is discussed above, and the latter two types are described below.)

Participial Phrase

A participial phrase consists of verbals ending in -ing or -ed, or another irregular form of a verb, and serves as an adjective: The participial phrase in “**Having been lied to before**, I was wary” modifies the word I. The phrase may be parenthetical within a sentence, too: In “You, **knowing what you now know**, are in a better position to judge,” the participial phrase modifies the word you.

Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition and a noun or pronoun that serves as the preposition’s object, and often one or more adjectives: “I went for a walk **in the dark woods**.” Prepositional phrases are often located at the head of a sentence. “**When the sun went down**, I hurried back.”