

B. Sentence Building Exercises

The following exercises will enable writers to develop control over the grammar of complex sentences. An endless number of combinations can be written for each exercise. The point is to develop familiarity with and fluency in the syntax of English.

Write sentences that contain the following grammatical units:

1. Simple sentence containing:
 - Adverbial prepositional phrase (answers the questions When? Where? Why? or How?)
 - Adjectival prepositional phrase (qualifies a noun or pronoun)

2. Compound sentence containing:
 - Present participial phrase in the first clause
 - Past participial phrase modifying the subject of one clause

3. Complex sentence containing: (eleven separate sentences)
 - Noun clause
 - Adjective clause
 - Adverb clause of condition
 - result
 - concession
 - time
 - place
 - comparison
 - purpose
 - cause
 - general possibility

4. Simple sentence containing: (five separate sentences)
 - Gerund as subject/predicate nominative
 - Gerund as object of a preposition
 - Infinitive as subject/predicate nominative
 - Gerund as direct object of verb
 - Infinitive as direct object of verb

5. Complex sentence containing:
 - Three dependent clauses followed by a main clause