



Basic Sentence Faults

For students majoring in English, Department of Foreign Languages & International Studies, University of Dalat

REFERENCE

- M. K. Segal & C. Pavlik. 1996. A Writing Process Book. New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.
- A. Oshima & A. Hogue. nd. Writing Academic English: A Writing and Sentence Structure Handbook. New York: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company.
- J. Langan. 1995. Sentence Skills- A Workbook for Writers. New Jersey: McGraw-Hill, Inc.
- M. K. Segal & C. Pavlik. 1996. A Writing Process Book. New York: The McGraw-Hill
- G. Leggett, D. Mead & W. Charvat. 1988. Essentials of Grammar and Composition. London: Prentice Hall.
- A. S. Hornby. 1975. Guide to Patterns and Usage in English. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- R. Murphy. 1985. English Grammar in Use. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- A. J. Thomson & A. V. Martinet. 1986. A Practical English Grammar. Oxford. Oxford University Press.
- E. H. Babin et al. 1991. Test of English as a Foreign Language. New York: Arco Publishing.
- L. G. Alexander & C. Wilson. nd. In Other Words. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

E-SOURCES

<http://iws.collin.edu/writestuff/faults.html>

<http://www.luc.edu/writing/proofreading.shtml>

http://www.free-ed.net/free-ed/Humanities/EnglishG&C/Grammar_Level2.asp (2.6)

http://www.athabascau.ca/courses/engl/egh/common_sentences.php



SECTION ONE: SUBORDINATION & COORDINATION

1-PHRASES & CLAUSES

1.1 – Finite Verbs & Non-finite verbs:

- 1-Keith had been living in Rugby for nearly ten years, but now he lives in London.
- 2- Living in Rugby is much cheaper, though.
- 3-Keith needs to work hard every day, earning to support his whole family.
- 4-He has just decided to sell his brick-built house.
- 5-The worst thing about living outside London is that it's boring.

1.2-Phrases & Clauses

Phrases: *groups of words containing non-finite verbs (-ING / -ED forms of verbs, To-infinitive)*

- e. g: Looking at the board, she knew that she was on the wrong way.
This is a long novel written by a very famous writer.
Old Dinger's ghost was said to live in the surrounding hills.

Clauses: *groups of words containing finite verbs*

- e. g: The cat jumped onto my father's lap while he was reading his letters.
Looking at the board, she knew that she was on the wrong way.

PRACTICE Identify phrases and clauses in the following sentences:

1-The woman driving the car indicated that she was going left and then turned right.

2- I shan't go unless he asks me.

3- When it rains, I usually go to the office by bus.

4- Henry did the work as it ought to be done.

5-Mary has gone to get some fruit.

6-I received my wages yesterday, so that I can now pay what I owe you.

7-Walking through the park, we saw a lovely show of daffodils.

8-The concert given by the Philharmonic Orchestra was a great success.

9-Taking the census is not as simple as it was two thousand years ago.

10-Candidates for local office will be attending the parent-teacher association meeting to make themselves known and to express their views.

11-Perceiving his opponent's strategy, the world-famous chess player managed to win the game and to do so in record time.

12-Insisting that his vegetables were fresh, the gardener refused to lower the price.

13-They were eliminated from a competition for breaking a rule.

14-Who sang I will always love you?

15-People who decide the winner in a competition are normally called judges.

2-SUBORDINATION & COORDINATION

1-The rain increased, so they cancelled the game.

2-Martha wanted to go shopping, but Fred refused to drive her.

3-Tom was watching television in the family room, and Marie was upstairs on the phone.

4-I had to give up wood carving, for my arthritis had become very painful.

5-Because it rained non-stop, they had to cancel the game.

6-As soon as he comes, I will pay him all my debt.

7-She told me she wouldn't come because she had to revise her report.

- FANBOYS: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So.
- Conjunctive adverbs: THEREFORE, HOWEVER, MOREOVER, IN FACT, NEVERTHELESS, OTHERWISE, etc.
- Subordinators: After, Although, As, Because, Before, If, Since, That, Unless, Until, When, Where, Whether, Which, While, Who, Whom, Whose, etc.

PRACTICE Identify subordinate and coordinate clauses in the following sentences:

1-The book which you lent me was interesting.

2-How the prisoners escaped is a complete mystery.

3-George said that he was pleased to welcome our Italian friends.

4-I shall do the exercises as I have been taught.

5-The news that we are having a holiday tomorrow is not true.

6-He asked me why I had come there.

7-As the car was so small he sold it.

8-He kept on with his work until he had finished it.

9-Stay where you are !

10-The idea that you can do this work without thinking is quite wrong.

11-In some towns people are awakened in the morning when a factory whistle blows to signal the change in a shift of workers.

12-Moving down the hills and around the curves, the procession of cars was not able to proceed faster than twenty miles an hour.

13-On the Friday after Thanksgiving, in spite of heavy rain, we tool the train downtown to join the throngs of shoppers and sightseers piling into the beautifully decorated department stores.

14-He also argued that people should select their form of government, an idea of appeal to the French as well as the Americans.

15-Rousseau, who was born in Switzerland but lived in France, believed that children are born in a natural and unspoiled state but that civilization corrupts people.

16-Chaplin lived in orphanages or boarding schools; sometimes he left them to perform in theatres.

17-No matter how hard I try, I cannot float with my toes out of the water.

18-We bought three dozen doughnuts so that everyone would be sure to have enough.

19-Food manufactures contend that modern processing often robs food of its natural colour.

20-What my son wants to wear or be or try to be is now almost entirely his business.

SECTION TWO: SENTENCE FAULTS

II-1. FAULTY SUBORDINATION & FAULTY COORDINATION

1-Fragment

2-Comma Splice

3-Run-on

4- Faulty Coordination

5- Faulty Subordination

1-Sentence Fragment (FRAG)

Examples:

A. Soul music was gaining popularity. But many people still didn't know what it was.

-> Soul music was gaining popularity, but many people still

didn't know what it was.

B. The President's budget was the largest in history. Though he had promised to cut it

-> The President's budget was the largest in history, though he had promised to cut it

C. The children were found in the street. The children were homeless.

-> The children who were found in the street were homeless.

D. I stayed at home. I was very tired.

->I stayed at home because I was very tired. (Because I was tired, I stayed at home)

2- Comma Splice, Run together

Revise comma splices and run-together sentences by using a co-ordinating conjunction, using semicolon, separating into two sentences, changing one of the main clauses into subordinating)

Comma Splice:

She disliked school, she studied everyday.

She disliked school but she studied everyday.

She disliked school; however, she studied everyday.

She disliked school. She studied everyday.

Although she disliked school, she studied everyday.

Run-together:

I did well in class I was a poor performer at games.

I did well in class but I was a poor performer at games.

Although I did well in class, I was a poor performer at games.

I did well in class; however, I was a poor performer at games

He wanted a job in fact he needed a job very badly.

He wanted a job; in fact, he needed a job very badly.

PRACTICE ONE *De-fragment the following passages.*

1. The Soviet delegate walked out of the meeting. Which was his way of avoiding the issue.
2. Look in the closet. Or look under the bed.
3. We left the party early. We were tired.
4. A man should never wear his best suit. When he goes out to fight for freedom and truth.
5. The bread was old and stale. Martha ate it anyway.
6. Violence is becoming a tool of political dissent. Chiefly because non-violence can so easily be ignored by the country as a whole.
7. Many doctors refuse to prescribe birth control pills. Some women have had serious side effects after using the pills.
8. The Beatles decided to stop giving concerts. Just as they were at the peak of their fame.

9. I couldn't repair my bicycle. I didn't have the right tools.
10. Paul brings the money for our lunch. We will go right down to the cafeteria.
11. Some English words have the same pronunciation. They are spelt differently, for example, deer and dear.
12. The two candidates have identical platforms. The only difference is their party.
13. The cortege at President Kennedy's funeral was a long one. Rich and poor, young and old, all marching side by side.
14. Many young people are considering social work as a career. Not for the money, but for the sense of satisfaction it provides.
15. He asked a lot of questions and generally managed to annoy everybody. His questions were none of his business.

PRACTICE TWO *Revise the following passages (Indicate the faults before you revise).*

- 1-The boy closed the door he walked away.
- 2-It was foggy, we decided to stay at home.
- 3-Some students question whether literature is relevant to them, they should really be asking whether they are relevant to literature.
- 4-The children had finished their lessons, they went home.
- 5-The students were trapped in a cave one of them has already been brought out.
- 6-It is impossible to experiment with psychedelic drugs cautiously, true caution would preclude their use entirely.
- 7-The pollution of air and water goes on many alarmed scientists warn that it threatens the survival of people.
- 8-Any of these problems can be solved by ordinary intelligence and hard work, none of them are too difficult for that.
- 9-Most of Hemingway's novels have similar subjects, love and war are two of the most frequent.

10-An addict needs more and more heroin he needs it all time.

11-The U. K. and Red China were technically allies however they have been quite a few problems lately.

12-The captain allowed the crew of the captured ship to return home he kept the ship.

13-Old Thrussel died, his widow came to me and said that he wished to be burred in the churchyard.

14-I didn't know she had been married, she seldom talked about herself.

15-A great storm had brought the sea right into the house they had been forced to make their escape by a window at the back.

16-I used to read a lot I don't get much time for books now.

17-To every child adult approval means love, disapproval means hate.

18-The test was difficult, he couldn't pass it.

19-They had a flat tire on the way to the airport they arrived on time.

20-The spider is an insect, it spins a web.

21-Some science fiction presents newly discovered facts, it predicts the future accurately.

22-Production of the item has greatly increased therefore the cost has come down.

23-The Savannah was launched in 1958, it was the first ship to be propelled by nuclear power.

3-Faulty Coordination

Examples: In-exacted : I couldn't return you the book and I didn't finish reading it.
Revised : I couldn't return you the book because I didn't finish reading it.

In-exacted :I couldn't repair my bicycle and I didn't have the right tools.
Revised :I couldn't repair my bicycle because I didn't have the right tools.

Ineffective : Camping in the mountains or on beaches is not very expensive, but you must first buy a lot of essential equipment.
Revised : Although camping in the mountains or on beaches is not very expensive, you must first buy a lot of essential equipment.

In-exacted	:World peace will be assured and the leaders of all nations sit down and talk to one another.
Revised	:World peace will be assured when (if) the leaders of all nations sit down and talk to one another.
In-exacted	: She bought some magazines, some novels, a dictionary and a Shakespeare's.
Revised	: She bought a dictionary, some magazines, some novels, one of which was a Shakespeare's.
In-exacted	:Entered in the pet show were several dogs, a parrot, a monkey, and one rather mangy cocker spaniel.
Revised	:Entered in the pet show were a parrot, a monkey, and several dogs, one of which was a rather mangy cocker spaniel.
Unrelated	:My uncle Bert was a golf instructor and moved here from New Mexico in 1959.
Revised	:My uncle Bert, a golf instructor, moved here from New Mexico in 1959.

PRACTICE: Revise each of the following sentences to make it more effective. Suggest as many ways as possible.

- 1- Sometimes violent storms arose and then the workers sought shelter in the huts.
- 2- The treaty was signed at Panmunjon in 1953, and Korea was still not a united country.
- 3- The fate of the new airplane design appears grim and many airlines have decided not to buy the supper-speedy plane.
- 4- Ecological deterioration, overpopulation, and natural resource depletion are serious problems and we are spending billions of dollars on new weapons of destruction.
- 5- Society has changed radically during the past fifty years and most children still grow up to live the same kind of lives their parents did.
- 6- There is a close relationship between vocabulary and success and students should try to improve their vocabulary.
- 7- You ever have any trouble but let me know.
- 8- I lent him the money so he need it.

- 9- She bought some things for her utensil-collection: a new frying pan, three saucers, several spoons and a wardrobe.
- 10- I enjoy any kind of spectator sport, whether it is baseball, football, or hockey.
- 11- Daily exercise is useful for people of all ages and people over forty should not attempt to shovel unless they are in top physical condition.
- 12- The town was lax in its collection of taxes, and the sanitation department was unable to collect garbage frequently enough.
- 13- Henry Kissinger was formerly a professor at Harvard University but he was involved in the secret negotiation that led to cease fire in Vietnam.
- 14- Many countries are suffering badly from overpopulation, and India and Pakistan are but two examples.
- 15- Travelers must know the tipping standards of foreign countries, and they might be embarrassed.

4-Faulty Subordination

Examples: Ineffective: I was blinded by the setting sun because I drove through a boulevard stop sign.

Revised: Because I was blinded by the setting sun, I drove thorough a boulevard stop sign.

Ineffective: He spent a great deal of time preparing for the exam, getting an A for the course.

Revised: Spending a great deal of time preparing for the exam, he got an A for the course.

(+ After spending great deal of time preparing for the exam, he got an A for the course.

+ Because he spent a great deal of time preparing for the exam, he got an A for the course.)

PRACTICE: Revise each of the following sentences to make it more effective. Suggest as many ways as possible.

- 1- When he decided to vote for the incumbent, it was after he learned that the other candidate was a bigot.
- 2- He was once convinced of the necessity of a move, working with persistence and diplomacy until the college found a new house.
- 3- Engineers, who have an aptitude for drafting and mechanics, must be artistic and imaginative.

- 4- The cost of education has risen because many students are having financial problems.
- 5- Ralph Waldo Emerson was an individualist because he said, “ Whoso would be a man must be a non-conformist.”
- 6- Foreign students come to the United States, when they sometimes suffer from cultural shock.
- 7- The peace treaty was signed at noon, the prisoners then knowing that they would be free to come home at last.
- 8- She pulled the emergency cord, averting a train wreck.
- 9- Although his salary remained the same, prices continued to rise.
- 10- Although she was trying to economize, she decided to take a taxi, being already late for her dental appointment.

II-2. INEFFECTIVE MODIFICATION

1-Dangling Structures

2-Faulty Reference

3-Shifts & Misplaced Parts

4-Illogical omissions

1-Dangling Constructions

Dangling Phrases:

1. 1- Dangling Participles:

Riding my bicycle, a dog chased me ->

When I was riding ..., I was

chased by a dog.

Mocked at by everyone, I can't help feeling sorry for Billy ->

I can't help feeling sorry for Billy who is mocked at by everyone.

1. 2- Dangling Gerunds:

After considering the plan for several days, it was adopted.

After considering the plan for several days, the committee adopted it.

1. 3- Dangling infinitives:

To write effectively, practice is necessary.

To write effectively, students should practice a lot.

1.4- Dangling elliptical clauses

When a baby, my grandfather gave me a silver cup.

When I was a baby, my grandfather gave me a silver cup.

PRACTICE ☐ *Revise the following dangling constructions:*

1- Sitting at an outdoor cafe, Paris reveals its eternal variety.

2-Looking through the window, the passers-by can be seen.

3-Stepping carelessly into the street, a car knocked him down.

4-Knowing little about Asian customs, the first President tour was not entirely successful.

5-Being thoroughly dissatisfied with the painting, it was hidden in the store room by Jane.

6-Discovered many years ago, we find uranium is a useful metal.

7-On arriving at the picnic, the moon was high in the sky.

8-Watching the slides carefully, many familiar scenes appeared.

9-Shopping in the department store, a pretty blouse came to my attention.

10-By checking the answer sheet, my errors became clear to me.

11-To dance well, practice is needed.

12-To make good impression, a clean shirt should be worn to Interview.

13-To get well, an operation is necessary for the patient.

14-To be extra safe, the lock on the new apartment door was changed.

15-The car proved hard to drive when drinking heavily.

16-While cooking dinner, her finger was burned badly.

17-When in grammar school, his teachers taught him to read.

18-If lost, we shall pay a reward for the ring.

19-When sick, see a doctor at once.

20-With a great deal of effort, his courses were passed.

21-When planting these flowers care must be taken not to damage the roots.

22-Reading the letter a second time, the meaning becomes clearer.

23-When paying by cheque, a bank card should be shown.

24-Barking furiously, I led the dog out of the room.

25-Tied to a post, the sea was tossing the boat up and down.

26-Shinning in the sky, we saw the first star.

27-Rushing out of the house, a lorry knocked me over.

28-Dropped by parachute, the country seemed entirely unfamiliar.

29-Pinned to the door by a knife, the man saw a notice.

30-Having paid my taxes, the amount left in the bank is hardly worth mentioning.

2-Faulty Reference of Pronouns

2-1. *Two possible antecedents for a pronoun:*

Jack told Carl that he was ungrateful -> Jack said to Carl:“ You are ungrateful”

When our president met with their premier, he felt a new chapter in history had begun.

->Our president felt a new chapter in history had begun when he met with their premier.

2-2. *Antecedent is remote from the pronoun:*

The school belongs to the community. Students and parents should work closely with faculty and administrators in developing programs of instruction and recreation. It could be the meeting place for community activities.

The schoolThe school could be the meeting place for community activities.

2-3. *Indefinite use of THEY, YOU, IT.*

In less industrialized areas, they do not understand the problems of the city.

->In less industrialized areas, the problems of the city are not understood.

In chapter II of the book it says that those adjectives are all attributive adjectives.

->Chapter II of the book says that those adjectives are all attributively adjectives.

2-4. *Vague use of THIS, THAT, WHICH*

The field-and-track events were poorly supported, which frustrated many students.

->That the field-and-track events were poorly supported frustrated many students.

->Many students were frustrated by the fact that the field-and-track events were poorly supported.

2-5. *Implied noun:*

Because we put the wire fence around the chicken yard, they cannot escape.

->Because we put the wire fence around the chicken yard, the chickens cannot escape.

PRACTICE: Revise the following uses of pronouns and their references:

1-After Mrs. Henry scolded little Sylvia, she regretted her rudeness.

2-Joan told her friend that she should take speech lessons.

3-He dropped the record on the phonograph arm and broke it.

4-Sidney gave his brother a copy of *Catcher in the Rye*, which was one of his favourite books.

5-When Kathy visited her mother she was very angry.

6-The birds sang in the forest where undergrowth was thick, and a brook wound slowly in the valley. They were of many colours.

7-She argued that yoga exercises is a mean of achieving relaxation, and that artists, writers, and even office workers find it necessary.

8-He and his opponent made promises to the people of the nation to argument and revitalize the various poverty programs. But they were soon forgotten after the election.

9-People should always vote on election day. This is an indication of their desire to have good government.

10-The profit from the investment would be large, which I realized almost immediately.

11-The government pays farmers not to grow crops. This is not helping to solve the problem of hunger among poor people.

12-There is a part on the far side of the museum, which is open to the public.

13-She was self-conscious about her money. But this didn't bother her real friends.

14-Tom brother's an engineer, and this is the profession Tom wants to study.

15-There is a police station near the church, and we called them when we saw broken windows in the basement.

3-Misplaced Parts

3. 1-Misposition of an adverb:

He almost seemed amused. -> He seemed almost amused

3. 2-Misposition of a phrase:

She met with a hat a woman -> She met a woman with a hat

3. 3-Misposition of a clause:

She borrowed an egg from a neighbour that was rotten -> She borrowed an egg that was rotten from a neighbor

PRACTICE:

1-In the peace agreement, it said that all American prisoners would be released.

2-It says almost nothing in the textbook about our real treatment of Chicanos and their minorities.

3-In some states you are not permitted to drive faster than fifty miles an hour.

4-I almost read half the book.

5-The earthquake victims needed nurses to bandage their wounds badly.

6-Who is the woman who gave you the candy in the pink dress.

7-He tried to get to know girls with a new approach.

8-The instructor told his students when the class was over they could ask their questions.

9-The major nations of the world regularly decide to one day in the near future reduce their armaments.

10-You should, if you ever see a drunken driver, immediately contact the police.

11-The Soviets tried, although they did not succeed, to establish a missile base in Cuba.

12-At the convention I saw Mr. Ward, whom I had many years ago met in Chicago.

4- Omission & Incomplete, Illogical comparisons**1-Prepositions, articles, auxiliary verbs, etc.**

This type novel is difficult to understand.

2-Words necessary to the clarity of the sentence:

He wanted to and would have taken her home if his car had not broken down on the country lane.

3-Transitions:

Hemingway lived in Paris ; the setting for his stories was Africa.

4-Comparisons:

He's the best President of any.

His face is like a movie star.

PRACTICE Revise the following sentences:

1. I have been trying to decide which make car I would buy if I had the money.

2. Henry was interested and skilful at photography .
3. I never will and never have ridden in an air -plane.
4. I have lived in several large cities, New York and Chicago.
5. Faulkner wrote of the South ; his was a universal message.
6. Casual dress is getting acceptance ; some people still frown on it.
7. The building here are as impressive as any other city.
8. She is a very kind, if not the kindest, woman I know.
9. The business element was more heavily represented in the last cabinet.
10. I like her more than her sister.
11. Harvard generally accepts more students from the Northeast than others.
12. The letter was mailed an hour ago by the new clerk with the red miniskirt in the corner mailbox
13. Millicent went to work in the theatre after being graduated from high school as a chorus girl.
14. He had forgotten how tall the skyscrapers were after a year in Africa he had grown more used to thatched huts.
15. On the way to office, Richard stopped to buy a morning paper.
16. Lying on the beach were a towel, a red ball, and broken tennis racket.
17. It was so pleasant day that we sat on the patio for hours.
18. He is both interested in and dedicated cancer research.
19. The glasses were washed and the silver polished.
20. We saw Alex, if not warned, would drive off the highway and onto the shoulder.

II-3. INEFFECTIVE STYLE

1-Choppy Sentences

2-Overuses of Long Sentences

3-Vague Uses of Connectors

4-Unparalleled Structures

1- Choppy Sentences (“ Primer Style”)

Choppy sentences are sentences that are too short. These sentences are the result of using too many simple sentences; although simple sentences are quite effective sometimes, overuse of them is considered poor style in academic writing. The following are some

methods suggested to revise these sentences:

If the simple sentences are equal (both main clauses), make a compound sentence using words such as and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet, moreover, therefore, however, other wise, etc.

Examples: The Japanese consume a lot of rice. The Japanese eat more fish than red meat.

The Japanese consume a lot of rice, and they eat more fish than red meat.

If one sentence depends on the other, make a complex sentence using who, which, when, although, if, because, as soon as, etc. (all the subordinators)

Examples: Ineffective: I may declare my major now. I can still change it later.

Revised : Even though I may declare my major now, I can still change it later.

Ineffective: Solar energy is a promising new source of energy. Solar energy is energy from the sun’s radiation.

Revised: Solar, which is energy from the sun’s radiation, energy is a promising new source of energy.

Sometimes both the coordinating construction and the subordinating construction are applied to make a sentence effective.

Examples: Ineffective: I graduated from high school. I wanted to travel. I had to work in my family’s business.

Revised : After I graduated from high school, I wanted to travel but I had to work in my family’s business.

Ineffective: The word root multi means many. It comes from Latin. The word root poly also means many. It comes from Greek.

Revised : The word root multi, which means many, comes from Latin ; and the word root poly, which also means many, comes from Greek.

PRACTICE ONE: Revise each of the following sentences to make it more effective. Suggest as many ways as possible.

1- I tried my best. I flunked the course. Now I’ll have to take it over again.

2- Native speakers and non-native English speakers have different needs. Most schools provide separate English classes for each group.

- 3- Gasoline is becoming expensive. Automobile manufacturers are producing smaller cars. Smaller cars use less gasoline.
- 4- The woman had no money. She was lonely in the big city. The woman then committed suicide.
- 5- In some countries women could own property. They could not vote. They could not be elected to public office.
- 6- The bookshelves were too expensive. I went to a lumber yard. I bought some shelves. I bought brackets for the shelves. I put them up myself.
- 7- The traffic was heavy. We tried to turn off the highway. We thought we might move faster on one of the one side road.
- 8- They bought a trailer. The whole family liked to go camping. Any kind of travel would be cheaper with the trailer.
- 9- The teacher was lecturing and she was talking too fast and so the students found it difficult to take notes.
- 10- It was dawn. The birds were singing. And suddenly it was good to be alive.

PRACTICE TWO:

- 1- Jack approached the mare warily. She saw the bride in his hand. He stood still. The mare waited, Jack tried to toss the reins over her head. But she galloped away.
- 2- Joe DiMaggio was a great baseball player. He could hit. He could field. He could run. Even more important, he had style.
- 3- Hemingway perfected a unique style. He wrote in short sentences. They were very short. They could almost be called “ terse”. This gave his stories a very intense quality.
- 4- Late night TV talk shows are very popular. The host is usually very funny. The guests are from many walks of life. Some of them are politicians .Some are show-business celebrities. They talk about various things. The mixture makes for interesting conversations.
- 5- Robert Frost was a poet. He wrote about rural New York England. He also wrote about the human condition.

2-Over Uses of Long Sentences

2.1-Excessive Subordination

<i>Examples:</i>	Ineffective	Bob Fischer, who was universally regarded as a chess genius, having won several championship at a very early age, was now ready to challenge the world champion, who was Boris Spassky, and after some delays, the match was held in the match in Reykjavik in Iceland.
	Revised	Bob Fischer, a chess genius having won several championship at a very early age, was now ready to challenge the world champion Boris Spassky in the match in Reykjavik in Iceland.

PRACTICE: Revise each of the following sentences to make it more effective. Suggest as many ways as possible.

- 1- The demonstrators, having been refused a permit for the match, and numbering about five hundreds, gathered in the park, where the leaders made speeches, which were greeted with shouts and applause.
- 2- Having traveled throughout Eastern Europe, including Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, which is close to Yugoslavia, he decided that he would apply for a visa to visit that country, although he had only a week left before he would have to report for work, his office being in New York.
- 3- A Clockwork Orange, which was written by Anthony Burgess, and which was a best-seller for many months, was made into a motion picture, directed by Stanley Kubrick, which was very well received by film critics, who thought it was one of the best movies of the year.
- 4- When the first returns were announced on television on CBS, NBC, ABC, and other networks, it was clear that Richard Nixon, former Vice-President of the United States, who had narrowly been defeated by John Kennedy in 1960 when he ran for the presidency after Eisenhower had served his two terms, which is the limit under the law, had been elected President of the United States.

5- Some psychiatrists, interested in the effects of mass media social behavior, have discovered that television, with its overwhelming emphasis on violence, is harmful for children, especially those between the ages of three and five, because it leads these children to equate violence with “good” men and acceptable behavior.

6- Harlem is reached by walking up Fifth Avenue, the most glamorous street in the richest city in the world, and it is infested with rats and disease.

7- My sport car, which I bought from a friend of mine, a car enthusiast who buys old cars and then rebuilds them as a hobby, has developed a rumble in the engine which has begun to worry me for I know nothing about repairing cars and haven’t the money to go to a mechanic.

8- Having little time and less energy, I decided that, for the time being at least, my desk would have to remain in its untidy state.

2.2- Overuse of Long Compound Sentences

Examples: Ineffective : Funny Girl had a long run on Broadway and broke many box office records and later was made into a movie and Barbara Streisand played the leading role.

Revised : Funny Girl, after having a long run on Broadway, was later made into a movie with Barbara Streisand in the leading role.

PRACTICE: Revise each of the following sentences to make it more effective. Suggest as many ways as possible.

1- He was chief of the volunteer fire company, and he was the town’s grocer, but he was never too busy in his store to attend a fire.

2- She carefully powdered her nose, applied her lipstick, and then smiled at her reflection in the mirror.

3- He was very interested in politics and he joined his campus chapter of the Young Republicans but he was almost certain that he preferred teaching as a career.

- 4- Poverty still exists in the United States, and it's a shame because we are the wealthiest nation on earth, and there is no excuse for it, and it's about time we eradicated it.
- 5- The analysts worked many hours on the computer program, but they couldn't find the cause of the problem, so they finally gave up, and they went home.
- 6- The heavy traffic problem can be solved. We can build rapid transit systems from the suburbs to the cities. The problem can also be solved by improving public transportation systems within the cities. And forming carpools also help to solve the problem.
- 7- Our love of Colonial arts and crafts is reflected in our homes and in our home magazines but our love of modern technological skills is also reflected in our homes and magazines.
- 8- The first sentence in an introductory paragraph should be a very general comment about the subject. The purpose of this sentence is to attract the reader's attention and to give background information on the topic and each subsequent sentence should become more specific than the previous one. Each of those sentences should finally lead into the thesis statement.

3- Vague or Unclear Use of Connectives

Examples:	Vague	She decided to take Route 9 to New York as she had taken it once before.
	Revised	She decided to take Route 9 to New York because she had taken it once before.
	Vague	He looks like he is exhausted.
	Revised	He looks as if he is exhausted.
	Vague	While it was very cold, I continued to study.
	Revised	Although it was very cold, I continued to study.

PRACTICE: Revise each of the following sentences to make it more effective. Suggest as many ways as possible.

- 1- While camping in the mountains or on beaches is not very expensive, you must first buy a lot of essential equipment.
- 2- Defeated in 1964, Richard Nixon did not know as he ever wanted to run for office again.

- 3- My parents bought a new house and they still liked the old one.
- 4- While the United States is in the process of changing to the metric system, both the metric and English system will be used.
- 5- I really don't feel like I should take the risk of going out this weather –not with the cold I have
- 6- She was tired, but she lay down to rest.
- 7- While my best friend lives in New York, we would meet during vacations at my uncle's.
- 8- As a tremendous quantity of coal deposits is deep underground, miners must bring it up.
- 9- Some people believe in everything they see and hear on commercials, and many of the advertisements give misinformation.
- 10- While Californians were having a severe drought, Easterners were having record snowfalls.
- 11- As sick, see a doctor at once.
- 12- As a teenager, she had babysat, worked in a restaurant, and typed for her mother.

4- Parallelism

- Examples:*
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Ineffective | :Being too early, even if it wastes valuable time, is better than to arrive late. |
| Revised | :Being too early, even if it wastes valuable, is better than arriving late. |
| Ineffective | :She likes a romantic novel with exciting action and which keeps her guessing. |
| Revised | :She likes a romantic novel which has exciting action which keeps her guessing. |
| Ineffective | :You are either late or I am early. |
| Revised | :Either you are late or I am early. |

PRACTICE: Revise each of the following sentences to make it more effective. Suggest as many ways as possible.

- 1- The substitute teacher was a married woman with a good sense of humor and who loved science ardently and conveyed this to her classes.
- 2- After reading the book, Susan decided to change her way of life, and her plans for the future also changed.
- 3- The student was told to obtain a transcript of his grades and that then he could apply for admission.
- 4- To be a good teacher, one must have patience, liking to help others, and to show an infinite capacity for learning.
- 5- Jim not only has been outstanding in athletics, but also in his studies.

- 6- We met Albert Fulton, who is both a brilliant biologist and an excellent pianists.
- 7- The instructor both spoke slowly and he also spoke a lot more loudly than was necessary.
- 8- Harry helps in the house by cooking and ironing his own shirts.
- 9- If you want to learn a foreign language as much as possible is necessary for you to do.
- 10- Credit cards are accepted by department stores, airlines and they can be used in some gas stations.
- 11- With credit cards you can either pay your bill with one check, or you can stretch out your payments.
- 12- Many people want neither to read a product's warranty nor spending it into a company.
- 13- Getting a defective product fixed or to have it replaced is what a comprehensive warranty guarantees.
- 14- You do not risk carrying cash or to risk to pass up a sale.
- 15- Good politicians not only work well with people but also they do not compromise their ideas.