

Upgrade Your Writing: Crafting Sentences *Study Guide*

by
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Upgrade Your Writing: Crafting Sentences

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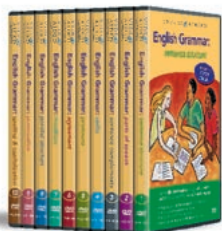
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Introduction

Video Aided Instruction's *Upgrade Your Writing* Series is like a virtual "writing clinic on DVD" that gives middle school students through adults (and challenged learners requiring remediation, in particular) the tools they need to dramatically improve their performance on any academic writing assignment or real-world writing task.

Before you begin viewing this program, please allow us to make a few recommendations. First, we suggest that you have a notebook and pen ready, so you're prepared to use the many on-screen graphics to take notes for yourself—the physical act of writing things down can help you remember them. Best of all, when you're done, you'll have a terrific resource filled with useful tips, key concepts, and easy-to-follow strategies that will help you become a better writer—all in one handy notebook that you can refer back to again and again.

Secondly, don't forget to take advantage of your "pause" button while viewing the program. This will allow you to try to complete the exercises in this study guide before you view the answers on-screen.

Finally, don't try to absorb too much at one time. By viewing the program over a number of short sessions (instead of all at once), you'll stay "fresher" and retain more of what you learn. And don't forget: you can review the entire program, or specific sections, as many times as you need to!

So now you can avoid the kind of incoherent, disorganized, and error-laden writing that inspires teachers to "break out the red pen"—you really can *Upgrade Your Writing...* let Video Aided Instruction be your guide!

About the Author

Laurie E. Rozakis, Ph.D., is a Professor of English and Humanities at the State University of New York at Farmingdale. An award-winning educator and vibrant public speaker, Dr. Rozakis is also a prolific author with more than 100 books to her credit, including numerous test prep titles for Scholastic, McGraw-Hill, and Peterson's and many books in the bestselling *Complete Idiot's Guide* series.

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PART 1: What Is a Sentence?

Exercise 1

Directions: First, identify each sentence as *correct* or *incorrect*. Then, *explain* why each incorrect sentence is incorrect. Finally, on a separate piece of paper, *correct* each incorrect sentence. (*NOTE: Your answers will vary from the program.*)

1. Have been made throughout history and continue to be made today.

2. Mathematics wherever there are difficult problems that involve quantity, structure, space, or change.

3. Most of the mathematical notation in use today not invented until at least the 16th century.

4. Modern notation makes mathematics much easier for the professional, but beginners often find it daunting.

5. Because mathematical language can be challenging for beginners.

6. Mathematicians want their theorems to follow from axioms and postulates by means of systematic reasoning.

7. Carl Gauss referring to mathematics as "the Queen of Sciences."

8. Since the major disciplines within mathematics first arose out of the need to do calculations in commerce, to understand the relationships between numbers, to measure land, and to predict astronomical events.

9. Originates with geometry.

10. Although understanding and describing change is a common theme in the natural sciences, and calculus was developed as a powerful tool to investigate it.

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Exercise 2

Directions: Identify each sentence as A) *declarative*, B) *interrogative*, C) *imperative*, or D) *exclamatory*.

1. Around 1750, the first glue patent was issued in Britain for a glue made from fish. _____
2. Did you know that the concept of an aerosol originated as early as 1790? _____
Well, it did! _____
3. Close the door. _____
4. George Westinghouse invented air brakes in 1868. _____
5. The first mass-produced and widely used metal foil was made from tin! _____
6. Eli Olds invented the basic concept of the assembly line, and Henry Ford improved it. _____
7. Ronald Riley invented the automated electrified monorail system! _____
8. Close your books for the test on inventors. _____
9. When did Dee Horton and Lew Hewitt invent the sliding automatic door? _____
It was 1954. _____
10. The bikini was invented in 1946 and named after the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, the site of the first atomic bomb testing! _____

Exercise 3

Directions: Identify each clause as A) *independent* or B) *dependent*.

1. Although in 1848 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and four other women invited the public to the First Women's Rights Convention to discuss expanding the role of women in America. _____
2. At the end of the two days, 100 people made a public commitment to work together to improve women's quality of life. _____
3. Since more than 1,000 miles of trail ruts can still be seen today in the vast, undeveloped West—reminders of the greatest mass migration in US history. _____
4. The road to California carried over 250,000 gold-seekers and farmers during the 1840s. _____
5. In central Colorado lies one of the richest and most diverse fossil deposits in the world. _____
6. A stamp act is a law enacted by a government that requires a tax to be paid on the transfer of certain documents such as property deeds. _____
7. As those that pay the tax receive an official stamp on their documents. _____
8. For the reason that a stamp duty was first introduced in Great Britain in 1694 following the Dutch model. _____
9. Because stamp duties are the oldest taxes still raised in Great Britain. _____

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Exercise 4

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, form **compound sentences** by combining each pair of simple sentences. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (one of the F.A.N.B.O.Y.S.: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*), or use a semicolon. If you use a coordinating conjunction, choose the one that best shows the relationship between the two independent clauses. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. Geometry now uses methods of calculus and abstract algebra. Many modern branches of the field are not easily recognizable as the descendants of early geometry.
2. Euclid's was not the first elementary geometry textbook. The others fell into disuse and were lost.
3. One of the most famous rules in geometry is the Pythagorean theorem. People never forget it.
4. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge has examples of volcanoes caused by divergent plates pulling apart. The Pacific "Ring of Fire" has examples of volcanoes caused by convergent plates coming together.
5. In these places, the crust is very thin. Eruptions occur frequently.
6. Some volcanoes have rugged peaks formed by lava domes. Others are massive plateaus.

Exercise 5

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, form **complex sentences** by combining each pair of clauses using the subordinating conjunction indicated in the parentheses. If your dependent/subordinate clause will come first, remember to include a comma after it. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. No one answered. She called. (*when*)
2. The tectonic plates move. Each volcano becomes dormant after a while. (*because*)
3. My uncle worked very hard. He never succeeded. (*although*)
4. It allows hot, molten rock to escape from deep below the surface. A volcano can radically alter the Earth's landscape. (*since*)
5. There are volcanoes scattered all around the world. Most are clustered around the "Ring of Fire." (*while*)
6. Volcanoes do play a role. There are many other factors that contribute to global warming. (*although*)

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Exercise 6

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, form **compound-complex sentences** by combining each group of three clauses using the coordinating conjunctions/semicolon and subordinating conjunctions indicated in the parentheses. Remember to use commas after dependent/subordinate clauses and before coordinating conjunctions. Also, remember to order your clauses in such a way that cause-and-effect and other logical relationships are clear. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. The truck broke down. No one passed who could rescue them. The family walked ten miles to the nearest town. (*because, and*)
2. The snowplows cleared the roads. My aunt planned to drive to work. She couldn't. (*but, until*)
3. Rick forgot to water the plants. He had neglected to prune them as well. They wilted. (a semicolon, *since*)
4. I prefer soccer. Football is fun. It is faster. (*because, but*)
5. We went to a movie. It started to rain. The game was called off. (*so, when*)
6. The land bordering the highway will not be developed. The owner refuses to sell. The mall will have to be built elsewhere. (*and, because*)

PART 2: What Is an Effective Sentence?

Exercise 7

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, **correct** each sentence to make it **complete**. Remember that a complete sentence must include correct punctuation and at least one independent clause—and each clause must contain a clear subject and a properly formed predicate. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. The good news being that animals help reduce blood pressure and signs of stress.
2. Parents who allow their children to have pets.
3. A diamond is cut with special grinding wheels, diamond dust is used as an abrasive.

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Exercise 8

Directions: Identify each sentence as being A) a *fragment* or B) a *run-on sentence* (including a *comma splice*). Then, on a separate piece of paper, **correct** the errors in each sentence. Remember that a complete sentence must include correct punctuation and at least one independent clause; each clause must contain a clear subject and a properly formed predicate. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. Flowers that are freshly cut. _____
2. Bees and wasps enable crops to grow caterpillars and beetles can devour these crops. _____
3. The jar on top of the refrigerator. _____
4. Insects are the most varied creatures on Earth they share certain common features. _____
5. While we were at the lake swimming. _____
6. Adult insects have three pairs of legs most have two pairs of wings. _____
7. Seeing my friend at the concert. _____
8. There are many similar and related organisms, none have all the same traits that insects share.

9. Broke all the speed records in the last race. _____
10. Roosters begin to crow at dawn, they seem to bring a farm to life. _____

Exercise 9

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, **correct** the *modification* errors in each sentence. Remember that, to avoid confusion, a modifier should be placed as close as possible to the word that it modifies—and that word must appear in the sentence! (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. She served hamburgers to the children on paper plates.
2. On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin landed on the moon, watched by nearly a fifth of the world’s population.
3. Walking to school in the cold, my ears froze.
4. When purchasing a cell phone, the wide variety of calling plans and features overwhelms many people.

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Exercise 10

Directions: Correct each **redundant** phrase by crossing out any unnecessary or repetitive words. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. few in number
2. combine together
3. 8:00 a.m. in the morning
4. final end
5. complete stop
6. revert back
7. foreign imports
8. sum total
9. end results
10. kills bugs dead
11. free gift
12. live and breathe

Exercise 11

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, combine each pair of simple sentences into a **compound sentence** through **coordination**. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or use a semicolon. If you use a coordinating conjunction, choose one that effectively communicates the relationship between the two clauses. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. Cells are made up of molecules. Molecules are made up of atoms.
2. A nucleus is the cell's control center. The cell membrane is composed of a double layer of fatty materials called lipids.
3. Cells are made up of trillions of atoms. Cells are not just tiny bricks.
4. At first scientists couldn't see much within a cell. They thought cells were just filled with a jelly-like substance.
5. Slime molds are too small to be seen individually. Colonies of slime molds can be seen without a microscope.

Exercise 12

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, combine each pair of simple sentences into a **complex sentence** through **subordination**. Choose a subordinating conjunction that effectively communicates the relationship between the two clauses. If your dependent/subordinate clause will come first, remember to include a comma after it. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. It has a brilliant crimson nose and bright blue cheeks. The mandrill is often called the most colorful mammal in the world.
2. The American Revolution ended in 1783. The United States was at a crossroads.
3. Coal became popular in the 1600s. England had burned up most of its wood to make products such as glass, bricks, and soap.
4. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson took the pen name Lewis Carroll. He wrote *Alice in Wonderland*.

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Exercise 13

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, combine each pair of simple sentences by **embedding** phrases and clauses. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. William Taft threw out the first ball in a 1910 game between Washington and Philadelphia. He was the first president to open a baseball season.
2. The US Senate conducted an investigation that cost \$2,000. It was infuriated with Dolley Madison's purchase of a \$40 mirror for the White House.
3. Abigail Filmore refused to move into the White House until it had indoor plumbing. She was born in 1798.

Exercise 14

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, rewrite each sentence using the **active voice**. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. Approximately 200 pounds are gained each day by the calf of a blue whale.
2. The age of 80 years has been reached by a goldfish in captivity.
3. One-third of the total amount of canned fish in the US is eaten by cats.

Exercise 15

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, rewrite each sentence by correcting the errors in **parallelism**. (*NOTE: Your answers may vary from the program.*)

1. The Industrial Revolution created the need for mill supervisors, lawyers, teachers, and people who operated telegraphs.
2. During the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale cleaned up the hospitals, improved care, and was reducing the death rate to two percent.
3. Can smarter machines and machines that are faster help us live long, more pleasant lives?

PART 3: Summary

Directions: See DVD program.