



Introduction to Composition

Practice Pack

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PRACTICE 1**What Is a Sentence?**

Underline the subject or subjects in each sentence once. Underline the predicate or predicates twice.

1. Amelia and Lily sang.
2. Everyone agrees.
3. Julio and Ann study.
4. Mr. Lewis sat and listened.
5. Jacob and Andrew laughed and shouted.
6. Bertram sighs.
7. Mrs. Rodriguez paints and draws.
8. You and I met.
9. Avery and Oliver play.
10. Jillian tries and succeeds.
11. Maria and William visit.
12. Sam and Leo walked and talked.
13. Ms. Jackson whistled and cheered.
14. Jamie practiced.
15. Ellen and Michaela swam and biked.



PRACTICE 2.1**Fragments**

Some of the groups of words below are complete sentences, and some are fragments. For each complete sentence, write *sentence* on the line. For each fragment, write a complete sentence using the fragment.

1. Trying to choose a book.

2. The first car I owned.

3. The dog barked loudly.

4. After the movie ended.

5. Tanya's bicycle is blue.

6. The best pizza in the world.

7. Tried to believe his strange tale.

8. You won the race.

9. Walking slowly down the hill.

10. The sun is setting.

PRACTICE 16.1**Identifying Good Supporting Sentences**

Read the topic sentences below. Then circle the letters of the three best supporting sentences for each.

1. Students should be able to choose which classes they take.
 - a. Everyone should receive a well-rounded education with classes in every subject.
 - b. Students will learn more if they are interested in their classes.
 - c. Students should not have to waste time studying subjects they will never use.
 - d. Understanding basic math and science is just as important as knowing how to read.
 - e. Sometimes people don't know what they like until they try different things.
 - f. Students who are forced to take classes they don't like can end up hating school.

2. Every school should include music in its curriculum.
 - a. Some students are more musically talented than others.
 - b. Students need to improve their basic reading and mathematics skills before they learn anything else.
 - c. Students who study music often remain interested in it throughout their lives.
 - d. All students can benefit from studying or playing music.
 - e. Music can be tied in to many other subject areas.
 - f. Some students would rather study art than music.

3. Bicycling is an excellent form of exercise.
 - a. Bikes can be expensive to buy and maintain.
 - b. Biking strengthens and tones many different muscles.
 - c. Biking is fun, so you're likely to do it several times a week.
 - d. It is important to wear a bike helmet and reflective clothes.
 - e. Not many people enjoy biking in the rain.
 - f. You can increase your lung capacity and burn calories by biking.

PRACTICE 16.2**Identifying Good Supporting Sentences**

Each topic sentence below is followed by several supporting sentences, and one sentence that does not support the topic. Circle the letter of the sentence that does not support the topic.

1. Motorcycle riders should be required by law to wear helmets.
 - a. Helmets can prevent or lessen head injuries.
 - b. More people would wear helmets if there were a law requiring it.
 - c. People should be able to make their own choices.
2. All high school students should be required to take gym class every day.
 - a. Many students don't get enough exercise.
 - b. Gym classes would cut into students' study time.
 - c. Regular gym classes would teach students healthy habits.
3. Everybody should carry a cell phone.
 - a. Cell phones provide instant, continuous communication.
 - b. Cell phones have a lot of entertaining features that prevent boredom.
 - c. Some people talk on their cell phones at inappropriate times.
4. Young children should learn foreign languages.
 - a. Children need to play as well as study.
 - b. Children pick up languages more easily than adults do.
 - c. Children enjoy imitating sounds that they hear.
5. Our town should not spend money on a new parking lot.
 - a. There is plenty of parking on the street.
 - b. We have several new stores in town to which people want to drive.
 - c. People can take mass transportation instead of driving.
6. The company cafeteria should offer healthier food choices.
 - a. Many people like to eat lunch at their desks.
 - b. The cafeteria is losing business because people aren't happy with the unhealthy options.
 - c. Healthier workers will be sick less often.



PRACTICE 31.1**Catching the Reader's Attention**

Look at each set of introductory paragraphs below. Then, for each set, circle the letter of the paragraph that would catch the reader's attention best.

Set 1

- a. An increasing number of school districts are implementing a year-round curriculum. Many teachers applaud the move, saying that students learn more efficiently without the traditional summer break, and that the schedule allows for more flexibility and creativity. However, the traditional summer vacation is an institution in American life. We must consider what our children will be missing if they are denied a traditional summer break.
- b. Last summer, Roy Jones spent his summer leaping into a cold, clear lake, playing baseball with his friends, and spending long, leisurely evenings at family cookouts. This summer, he will be sitting behind a desk staring at a blackboard. Roy's school has begun a year-round curriculum, which means no more traditional summer vacation.
- c. Is it a good idea to do away with summer vacation in favor of a year-round school curriculum? Some people argue that it has benefits for students and teachers alike. On the other hand, students who are in school year-round will be denied a traditional summer break.

Set 2

- a. From the deck on top of the building's roof, we barely felt the sweltering city heat. We drank icy lemonade from glasses that were slick with beaded water and looked out at the scene below. Everybody down there looked hot and harried. We felt lucky to be so far above them, in what our grandmother called our private clubhouse.
- b. The city was very hot. We were lucky, though, because we got to spend time on the roof deck on top of our grandmother's building. We drank lemonade and watched the people below. It was like having a private clubhouse.
- c. Our grandmother lived in a tall building in the city. The building had a deck on top of the roof. In the summer we spent time on the deck. It was hot out, and we drank lemonade.



PRACTICE 31.2

Catching the Reader's Attention



Rewrite each introductory paragraph in a way that will better capture the reader's attention.

1. Over the years, people have become more and more dependent on television for entertainment. Families no longer have to talk to each other in the evening, because they have television. They also have no reason to play games, make music, read books, or do any of the things people once did to pass the time enjoyably. With their increasing dependence on television, people have forgotten how to amuse themselves.

2. The world must have been much more quiet a century ago. So many of the inventions on which we rely make noise, either by design or as a side effect. Consider a world without airplanes and automobiles, just to start. It would be very quiet. Then take away telephones, television, radios, computers, and portable music players. It is hard to imagine living in that kind of silence.



PRACTICE 43.1
Kinds of Outlines

Decide whether each of the following short outlines is a topic outline or a sentence outline. Circle your answer. Rewrite each outline as the opposite type on a separate sheet of paper.

1.

The Development of a Community Garden

- I. Improvements to neighborhood
 - A. Looks better than vacant lot
 - B. Encourages caretaking of land
 - C. Brings neighbors together
- II. Benefits to community members
 - A. Provides space to socialize
 - B. Teaches children about gardening
 - C. Provides fresh vegetables

This is a topic/sentence outline.

2.

Banning Unhealthy Snacks from School Vending Machines

- I. A group of parents wants to restrict the types of snacks available in school vending machines.
 - A. They think their kids are learning unhealthy habits.
 - B. There are plenty of healthy snacks that can replace the unhealthy ones.
- II. Unhealthy snacks are causing health problems in students.
 - A. Sugary snacks are bad for the teeth.
 - B. Many of the snacks are high in fat and calories.
 - C. Students fill up on unhealthy snacks and don't want to eat nutritious meals.

This is a topic/sentence outline.



PRACTICE 43.2

Kinds of Outlines



Read each outline below, and answer the questions that follow.

Plan to Improve Town Park

- I. The park needs to be cleaned.
 - A. Enlist volunteers to clean and maintain park.
 - B. Install more trash cans.
 - C. Enforce rules against littering.
- II. The park must be made safer.
 - A. Install lights for evening hours.
 - B. Police.

1. Which line does not fit in with the format of the outline?
 - a. Enlist volunteers to clean and maintain park.
 - b. The park must be made safer.
 - c. Police.
2. Except for the line noted above, this outline is
 - a. a topic outline.
 - b. a sentence outline.

Agenda for Class Meeting

- I. Fund-raising
 - A. Ideas for fund-raisers
 - B. Fund-raising needs
 - C. What are our fund-raising goals?
 - II. Events
 - A. School dance
 - B. Trip to aquarium
 - C. Language club banquet
3. Which line does not fit in with the format of the outline?
 - a. What are our fund-raising goals?
 - b. Trip to aquarium
 - c. Language club banquet
 4. Except for the line noted above, this outline is
 - a. a topic outline.
 - b. a sentence outline.

PRACTICE 50.1
Grammatical Errors

The following sentences have been marked for grammatical errors. Rewrite each sentence with the errors fixed.

s-v agr 1. The bicycle, which contains many parts, ~~are~~ broken.

ref 2. Every member of the club has received ~~their~~ invitation.

s-v agr 3. The weather ~~have~~ been warm for a week.

vt 4. I explained that I ~~need~~ to leave.

s-v agr 5. One of the guests ~~have~~ arrived.

vt 6. I should have ~~went~~ with you.

ref 7. Each student must bring ~~their~~ permission slip.

s-v agr 8. Two of your friends ~~has~~ called.

s-v agr 9. All of the tires ~~is~~ flat.

vt 10. I explained to the judge that I ~~witness~~ the whole series of events.



PRACTICE 50.2
Grammatical Errors

Each of the following sentences contains one grammatical error. Mark the error using proofreaders' marks. Make sure to mark the type of problem in the margin.

1. Each student will have a conference with their teacher.
2. The pieces of the engine was scattered across the lawn.
3. The main idea of both essays were that people should try to live a simpler life.
4. Last week the team travels to Atlanta to compete in the regional championship.
5. No one will be allowed to use their textbook during the exam.
6. One of the photographs capture the sunset perfectly.
7. The organizers of the meeting was very angry when they discovered that no one showed up.
8. The members of the book club is trying to decide which book they will discuss next.
9. Yesterday, I watch a movie from start to finish, and then I sat through it a second time.
10. None of the frames look quite right with this painting.
11. I go to a baseball game last Saturday.
12. Every baby needs their nap time.