

## SENTENCE PATTERNS

1. COMPOUND SENTENCE Two independent clauses joined by a comma and a conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so)

Ex: I enjoy reading science fiction, **but** fantasy writers also capture my imagination.



2a. INDEPENDENT CLAUSE / SEMICOLON / INDEPENDENT CLAUSE Two independent clauses joined by a semicolon

Ex: Alex deserved to win the competition; he had been practicing for six months.



2b. SEMICOLON/CONJUNCTIVE ADV or PARENTHETICAL EXPRESSION/COMMA  
Two independent clauses separated by comma / conjunctive adverb or parenthetical expression / comma

(Conjunctive adverbs - also, anyway, besides, consequently, finally, furthermore, however, incidentally, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, nevertheless, next, nonetheless, otherwise, still, then, therefore, thus)

Ex: Grandma Vi takes us to WWF wrestling; **however**, she won't let us wrestle at home.

(Parenthetical expressions - after all, as a result, at any rate, by the way, even so, for example, in addition, in fact, in other words, on the contrary, on the other hand)

Ex: Grandpa Ed does not approve of violent sports; **as a result**, he takes us to tea parties.

2c. COMMA/CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB or PARENTHETICAL EXPRESSION/COMMA  
One independent clause separated by comma / conjunctive adverb or parenthetical expression / comma (See lists of conj. adverbs and parenthetical expressions above in 2b.)

Ex: Grandmother Carson, **on the other hand**, always bakes cookies on Friday afternoons.

3. INTRODUCTORY SERIES OF PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES - Followed by a comma  
Ex: **With the revisions in her notebook**, she wrote the final draft of her essay.

4a. INTRODUCTORY PARTICIPIAL PHRASE -Ed or -ing phrase used as an adjective; followed by a comma

Ex: **Looking through the rusty trunk in the attic**, Sam found the map to the burial site.

4b. NONESSENTIAL PARTICIPIAL PHRASE -Ed or -ing phrase used as an adjective; needs comma(s)

Ex: The soccer team members, **ranging in age from 17 to 29**, visited Children's Hospital.

4c. ESSENTIAL PARTICIPIAL PHRASE -Ed or -ing phrase used as an adjective; does not need comma(s)

Ex: The judge gave the trophy to a team **composed of eleven students from Sweden**.



5a. GERUND PHRASE USED AS SUBJECT -Ing phrase used as noun (subject); can substitute the pronoun *it* for the phrase

Ex: **Planning the demise of Fortunato** is the best carnival entertainment for Montresor.

5b. GERUND PHRASE USED AS DIRECT OBJECT -Ing phrase used as noun (d.o.); can substitute the pronoun *it* for the phrase

Ex: Fortunato enjoys **drinking a glass of Amontillado**.



5c. GERUND PHRASE USED AS OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION -Ing phrase used as noun (o.p.); can substitute the pronoun *it* for the phrase

Ex: Montresor vowed revenge on Fortunato for **insulting him**.



6. INTRODUCTORY ADVERB CLAUSE Group of words with sub. and verb; modifies verb, adjective, or other adverb; followed by a comma

Introduced by subordinating conjunctions: after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though, because, before, even if, even though, in order that, provided that, since, so that, that, though, unless, until, when, whenever, where, wherever, while

Ex: **Although Leah's dress design was elaborate**, Kathy's design was more sophisticated.

7a. NONESSENTIAL ADJECTIVE CLAUSE Group of words with sub. and verb; modifies noun or pronoun; needs comma(s)

(Relative pronouns introduce adjective clauses: who, whose, whom, which, that. Relative adverbs may introduce adjective clauses: when, where)

Ex: Artist Georgia O'Keeffe, **who married photographer Alfred Stieglitz**, painted simplified versions of leaves, flowers, animal bones, and other forms of nature.

7b. ESSENTIAL ADJECTIVE CLAUSE Group of words with sub. and verb; modifies noun or pronoun; does not need comma(s)

(Introduce adj. cl. with the following: who, whose, whom, which, that, when, where)

Ex: I have read every single novel **that John Grisham has written**.

8a. NOUN CLAUSE USED AS SUBJECT Group of words with sub. and verb; functions as noun/subject

(Common introductory words for noun clauses: how, that, what, whatever, when, whenever, where, wherever, whether, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, whose, why)

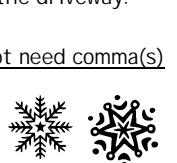
Ex: **How global warming is occurring** was discussed by the environmentalists.

8b. NOUN CLAUSE USED AS DIRECT OBJECT Group of words with sub. and verb; functions as direct object (receives the action of the verb)

(Common introductory words for noun clauses: how, that, what, whatever, when, whenever, where, wherever, whether, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, whose, why)

Ex: Señora Dobolina will choose **whoever can flamenco dance the best**.

9a. NONESSENTIAL APPOSITIVE PHRASE Renames the subject; needs comma(s)  
Ex: His car, **a gleaming black Porsche convertible**, shrieked to a stop in the driveway.



9b. ESSENTIAL APPOSITIVE PHRASE Renames the subject; does not need comma(s)  
Ex: Yesterday I recited Edgar Allan Poe's poem "**The Raven**."



10. ITEMS IN A SERIES Separate by commas; use parallel structure  
Ex: You will be graded on your ability **to speak with the proper accent, to write in a sophisticated style, and to read with accurate comprehension**.