

Teaching Notes

Sentence Combining

Overview

The fifteen transparencies that follow provide a variety of activities designed to increase sentence-combining skills.

Types of Sentence-Combining Activities

Three basic types of sentence-combining activities are included.

- On five transparencies students are directed to combine pairs of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into another:

Two Sentences: Louisa bought a new skirt. It was purple.

Sample Solution: Louisa bought a new *purple* skirt.

- On five transparencies students are given clues and directed to combine two sentences to create a particular meaning:

Two Sentences: I'm serving a casserole. Lee is a vegetarian.

Sample Solutions: I'm serving a casserole *if* Lee is a vegetarian.
(The speaker is not sure whether Lee is a vegetarian.)

I'm serving a casserole *unless* Lee is a vegetarian.
(The speaker will serve something else if Lee is a vegetarian.)

- On five transparencies students are given three short sentences and directed to combine them in different ways:

Original Sentences:

Science is my favorite subject.

I have science second period.

We do experiments and take field trips during science.

Sample Solution 1:

Science, my second period class, is my favorite subject because we do experiments and take field trips.

Sample Solution 2:

I have science second period; it is my favorite subject because we do experiments and take field trips.

Answers

Examples of sentence solutions are included on the Answer Key pages that follow.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: In cold weather, the body loses heat. It loses heat in five ways.

Sample Solution: In cold weather, the body loses heat *in five ways*.

Two Sentences: I will need a sweater if we go to the penguin exhibit. The exhibit is cold.

Sample Solution: I will need a sweater if we go to the *cold* penguin exhibit.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

- 1 During the winter, outside temperatures are often extremely cold. Most people try to avoid extremely cold temperatures.
- 2 Most people try to keep warm. They keep warm by wearing several layers of clothing.
- 3 Synthetic materials protect and maintain body heat. They are effective.
- 4 An uncovered head results in heat loss. It can result in the loss of one-half of your body's heat production.
- 5 Convection is a form of heat loss. It occurs when drafts draw off warm air from the body.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: Some people prefer baseball to soccer. They overlook soccer's advantages.

Sample Solution: *Overlooking soccer's advantages, some people prefer baseball to soccer.*

Two Sentences: Our soccer team won first place in the tournament. It happened last year.

Sample Solution: *Last year, our soccer team won first place in the tournament.*

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

- 1 I've always played baseball and soccer. I started playing at age five.
- 2 My soccer coach played on his college team and was also the captain. His name is Coach Erwin.
- 3 My baseball team played in the district championship game and won. This happened last summer.
- 4 Soccer players get good exercise. Players get exercise by running after the ball.
- 5 Some baseball players do not get much exercise. They spend time sitting on a bench.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: Severe weather often causes damage.
Weather-related damage can be extensive.

Sample Solution: Severe weather often causes *extensive* damage.

Two Sentences: I worry about hurricanes. I live in a coastal area.

Sample Solution: *Living in a coastal area,* I worry about hurricanes.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

- 1 Every year eleven million U.S. residents have wounds sewn up. They are treated in emergency rooms.
- 2 My brother got fifteen stitches in his leg. It happened last year after he had a biking accident.
- 3 There is a new procedure called wound gluing. It could eliminate the need for stitches in one third of all wounds.
- 4 Wound gluing is a safe and attractive alternative to stitches. It takes one quarter of the time that stitches take.
- 5 Patients seem to like wound gluing. They report significantly less pain during the process.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: Tim cleans beaches on weekends. He is dedicated to caring for the environment.

Sample Solution: Tim is dedicated to caring for the environment and *cleans beaches on weekends*.

Two Sentences: Mr Wilcox helped Tim start an environmental club. Mr Wilcox is our physics teacher.

Sample Solution: Mr Wilcox, *our physics teacher*, helped Tim start an environmental club.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

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- 1 Zebra mussels are one of the newest environmental challenges facing this country. They were accidentally carried to the Great Lakes by a European tanker.
 - 2 Zebra mussels are inch-long shellfish. They have delicate striped shells.
 - 3 The shellfish form dense colonies. They clog water mains and factory cooling systems.
 - 4 The prolific mussels reproduce rapidly. They have few predators.
 - 5 Zebra mussels create debris. They create it along the shorelines of the Great Lakes.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: Jeff got his driver's license. He got it last week.

Sample Solution: Jeff got his driver's license *last week*.

Two Sentences: My parents commute to work. They drive in one car to save on gasoline costs.

Sample Solution: My parents commute to work *in one car to save on gasoline costs*.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

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- 1 U.S. residents make up about 5 percent of the world's population. They own almost half of the world's cars.
 - 2 U.S. residents drive an average of eleven thousand miles. They do this each year.
 - 3 Errands and recreational travel make up the majority of miles traveled. They make up about 70 percent of the total mileage.
 - 4 Vacation travel makes up less. It accounts for only 8 percent of the total mileage.
 - 5 Commuting to work is popular. It accounts for 22 percent of the total mileage.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Sarah plays the piano brilliantly. She practices her playing.

Sample Solutions:

Sarah plays the piano brilliantly *because* she practices.

(Sarah's brilliant playing is a result of frequent practice.)

Sarah plays the piano brilliantly *after* she practices.

(Sarah's brilliant playing occurs after she practices.)

Sarah plays the piano brilliantly *if* she practices often.

(Sarah plays brilliantly on the condition she practices.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

- 1 I will pursue a career in marketing. I take business classes.
 - A The speaker will pursue a marketing career as a result of taking business classes.
 - B The speaker will complete business classes and then pursue a marketing career.
 - C The speaker will choose to pursue a marketing career on the condition that he or she takes business classes.
- 2 He will plan a graduation party. His friends are in town.
 - A Since his friends are in town, he will plan a party.
 - B He is not sure he will plan a graduation party.
 - C His friends will be in town, and then he will plan a party.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Linda will go to the store. Her father is home.

Sample Solutions:

Linda will go to the store *after* her father is home. (Linda's father must be at home before she will go to the store.)

Linda will go to the store *unless* her father is home. (Linda is unsure whether she will go to the store.)

Linda will go to the store *since* her father is home. (Her father being home is the reason Linda will go to the store.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

- 1 Maria wants to take a long trip. Maria studies landscape painting.
 - A Maria wants to take a long trip but first will study landscape painting.
 - B Maria is unsure whether she will take a long trip.
 - C Maria wants to take a trip as a result of her landscape painting.
- 2 We're moving to Boston next month. My mom has a new job.
 - A Mom's new job is the reason for moving to Boston.
 - B The speaker is unsure about moving to Boston.
 - C Mom's new job will begin after they move to Boston.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Ann will swim. She's going to be on Liz's team.

Sample Solutions:

Ann will swim *if* she's on Liz's team. (Ann is not certain whether she will swim.)

Ann will swim *even though* she's going to be on Liz's team. (Ann will swim in spite of being on Liz's team.)

Ann will swim *because* she's going to be on Liz's team. (Ann will swim as a result of being on Liz's team.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

1 Ben is going to the prom with Kim. Amy is going with Raj.

A Ben is not sure whether he will go to the prom with Kim.

B Ben will go to the prom with Kim since Amy is going with Raj.

C Ben will go to the prom although Amy is going with Raj.

2 I'll empty the dishwasher. Peter has to set the table.

A The speaker will do this task so that Peter doesn't have to do all the work.

B The speaker will do this task but is pointing out that Peter has to do the other task.

C The speaker is not certain about emptying the dishwasher.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

I'm playing in the orchestra. I take a college entrance exam.

Sample Solutions:

I'm playing in the orchestra *unless* I take a college entrance exam. (The speaker is not sure about playing in the orchestra.)

I'm playing in the orchestra *after* I take a college entrance exam. (The speaker will take the exam before playing in the orchestra.)

I'm playing in the orchestra *before* I take a college entrance exam. (The speaker will play in the orchestra first.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

1 Zach swims at North Sand Lake. He goes skiing.

A Zach is not sure whether he will swim at North Sand Lake.

B Zach will go skiing first.

C Zach will go swimming before he skis.

2 Jake reads his book. He goes to football practice.

A Jake will read his book first and then go to football practice.

B Jake is unsure if he will read his book.

C Jake will go to football practice before he reads his book.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

I called my friend Sam. I was feeling upset.

Sample Solutions:

I called my friend Sam *because* I was feeling upset. (Since the speaker was upset, he or she called Sam.)

I called my friend Sam *when* I was feeling upset. (The speaker called Sam at the time he or she was feeling upset.)

I was feeling upset *until* I called my friend Sam. (The speaker was upset up to the time he or she called Sam.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

- 1 It stopped raining. We wanted to play basketball.
 - A We wanted to play basketball at the time it stopped raining.
 - B Since it stopped raining, we wanted to play basketball.
 - C We wanted to play basketball up to the time it stopped raining.
- 2 The students don't speak. They are taking a test.
 - A Taking a test is the reason the students don't speak.
 - B During the time the students take a test, they don't speak.
 - C The students don't speak up to the time they take a test.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: Whales come to the surface to breathe.

They must be conscious when they breathe.

Whales don't experience unconscious sleep.

Sample Solution 1: Since whales must be conscious and come to the surface to breathe, they don't experience unconscious sleep.

Sample Solution 2: Whales, which come to the surface to breathe, must remain conscious and don't experience unconscious sleep.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

1 The sea is full of fascinating creatures.

Many denizens of the sea are mammals.

Some sea mammals do not sleep the way earth mammals do.

2 Furry sea mammals are called pinnipeds.

Seals and sea lions are pinnipeds.

Pinnipeds come out of the water to sleep.

3 Whales are cetaceans.

There's an unproven theory that whales rest half their brains.

The theory maintains that whales control their breathing with the other half.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: Teenagers require a lot of sleep.

They need more sleep than most people assume.

Teenagers need about the same amount of sleep as younger children.

Sample Solution 1: Teenagers, who require more sleep than most people assume, need about the same amount as younger children.

Sample Solution 2: Teenagers need more sleep than most people assume, about the same amount as younger children.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

- 1** Hormonal changes cause teenagers' clocks to shift ahead.
They fall asleep later at night. They need to sleep later in the morning.
- 2** Most teenagers get about seven hours of sleep.
This isn't enough. Their growing bodies need more sleep.
- 3** Teenagers reach their peak period of alertness around 3 P.M.
High school classes start early in the morning.
Most high school classes are finished before 3 P.M.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: Jill lives in the Rocky Mountains.

She drives to work.

Highways are often affected by sleet and snow.

Sample Solution 1: Jill often drives to work in snow and sleet conditions because she lives in the Rocky Mountains.

Sample Solution 2: In spite of snow and sleet, Jill drives to work in the Rocky Mountains, where she lives.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

- 1 Many food products contain large amounts of salt.
Some food products contain large amounts of sugar.
Recent studies show that Americans consume too much sugar.
- 2 Soft drinks are a source of added sugar.
Soft drinks are the biggest source of added sugar.
Soft drinks make up one third of all added sugar in the average U.S. diet.
- 3 Teenagers drink soda.
Teenagers drink milk.
Teenagers drink twice as much soda as milk.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: Architecture is his favorite subject.

He plans to study the subject in college.

He hopes to see some of the world's greatest designs.

Sample Solution 1: After he studies architecture, his favorite subject, he hopes to see some of the world's greatest designs.

Sample Solution 2: Because architecture is his favorite subject, he hopes to study it in college as well as see some of the world's greatest designs.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

- 1 Chimpanzees demonstrate cultural differences.**
These differences vary from community to community.
These differences cannot be explained as adaptations.
- 2 Chimps in different communities have different grooming habits.**
Different chimp communities have distinct courtship rituals.
Primatologists have identified thirty-nine distinct behaviors.
- 3 Most animal behaviors are inherited.**
Some animal behaviors are learned.
The thirty-nine behaviors identified by primatologists are learned.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: Her parents want to build a new home.

They plan to design it themselves.

They are looking through design magazines for ideas.

Sample Solution 1: Her parents, who want to build a new home, are looking through design magazines for ideas.

Sample Solution 2: After they look through design magazines for ideas, her parents plan to design and build a new home.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

- 1 Planning a new home requires imagination.**
Design and structure are factors.
Exterior materials and landscaping must be considered.
- 2 Designing a new home's interior spaces is important.**
Family members and lifestyle needs usually dictate the number and size of rooms.
New homes and room sizes are typically larger than those built just a decade ago.
- 3 Newer homes often provide more windows and natural light.**
Paneled dens and media rooms offer privacy.
Higher ceilings are more common.