

# 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:** Louisa bought a new skirt. It was purple.

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

**Two Sentences:** I could see the stage. I was standing on my chair.

**Sample Solution:** *Standing on my chair*, I could see the stage.

### 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 Have you seen Robert's sweater? It is blue.
  - 2 My friends and I went for a walk. We went after dinner.
  - 3 An exchange student will live with Rita's family this summer. The exchange student is studying U.S. history.
  - 4 We watched the sunset from the porch. We did this after the clambake.
  - 5 Jesse's school closes when it snows. He lives in Amarillo, Texas.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Two Sentences:** My mother really appreciated the roses we gave her. There were a dozen of them, and they were red.

**Sample Solution:** My mother really appreciated the *dozen red* roses we gave her.

**Two Sentences:** Ms. Wygand gave us pencils. She gave them to us before the test.

**Sample Solution:** *Before the test*, Ms. Wygand gave us pencils.

### 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 bought my cat, Bella, a new collar. It is pink and made of nylon.
  - 2 My little brother wants to play video games. He wants to play them all the time.
  - 3 Derrick had an operation on his knee. It happened two years ago.
  - 4 Did you know that Emilio learned how to water ski as a child? He was nine years old.
  - 5 Maggie accidentally knocked over the groom when she was dancing. It happened at my cousin's wedding.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Two Sentences:** As a girl, my grandmother worked in a rose field. She was ten years old.

**Sample Solution:** As a *ten-year-old* girl, my grandmother worked in a rose field.

**Two Sentences:** I take out the trash after breakfast. It is my least favorite chore.

**Sample Solution:** I take out the trash, *my least favorite chore*, after breakfast.

### 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 Make sure you tell Rebecca that we have a pop quiz today. The quiz is in math.
  - 2 Mr. Wilcox is an avid traveler. He is our history teacher.
  - 3 Madeline writes stories and submits them to magazines. Her stories are about ferrets.
  - 4 Are you going to the meeting? The meeting is after school.
  - 5 Grace had an excellent idea. Her idea involved raising money for the school play.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Two Sentences:** I've just seen a picture of my father. It shows how he looked with a crew cut.

**Sample Solution:** I've just seen a picture of my father *with a crew cut*.

**Two Sentences:** The trunk was gathering dust. It was chained and locked.

**Sample Solution:** *Chained and locked*, the trunk was gathering dust.

### 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 Mr. Goetz is our substitute teacher. He was a professional baseball player.
  - 2 I sneaked into the classroom. I arrived late.
  - 3 Travis scored 50 points in last night's game. He set a school record.
  - 4 My uncle and aunt will visit us in May. They are from New Jersey.
  - 5 Brandon received an award. The principal gave it to him.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Two Sentences:** The house needs to be repaired. It was built in 1860.

**Sample Solution:** The house, *built in 1860*, needs to be repaired.

**Two Sentences:** I spent eleven hours on the bus. I was traveling from Texas to Florida.

**Sample Solution:** I spent eleven hours *traveling from Texas to Florida* on the bus.

### 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 Elizabeth paints pictures of New England scenes. She is a successful artist.
- 2 My father played in a rock band. He played bass guitar.
- 3 I'm throwing a birthday party for Zeke on Friday. He will be fourteen.
- 4 Taylor and I discovered we had bought the same sunglasses. We were leaving the store.
- 5 Marcus crossed the finish line after three long hours. He was exhausted and weak.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

I will study. I go to class.

**Sample Solutions:**

I will study *before* I go to class. (Studying will occur before class.)

I will study *after* I go to class. (Studying will occur after class.)

I will study *until* I go to class. (Studying will occur up to the time class begins.)

I will study *unless* I go to class. (Studying won't occur if the speaker goes to class.)

### 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 learn how to in-line skate. I play soccer.

A The speaker will learn to in-line skate and then play soccer.

B The speaker will play soccer and then learn in-line skating.

C The speaker will choose to do only one sport.

**2** The crowds will leave. The performance ends.

A The speaker thinks the crowds will leave once the show has ended.

B The speaker thinks the crowds will not like the performance.

C The speaker thinks the crowds do not like this performance but may return for the next one.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

Lilly will buy a gift. Her sister bought flowers.

Sample Solutions:

Lilly will buy a gift *because* her sister bought flowers.

(Her sister's purchase is the reason why Lilly will buy a gift.)

Lilly will buy a gift *even though* her sister bought flowers.

(Her sister's flowers could be a gift, but Lilly wants to buy one anyway.)

Lilly will buy a gift *unless* her sister bought flowers.

(Lilly isn't sure if she should buy a gift.)

### DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two sentences in each set three different ways. The three clues will help you choose conjunctions.

- 
- I would like to send you this cotton fabric. You need a costume.
    - The fabric won't meet the recipient's need for a costume, but the speaker is sending it anyway.
    - The recipient's need for a costume is the reason the speaker is sending the fabric.
    - The speaker will not send the fabric if the recipient would rather have a costume.
  - We want to go to the concert. The tickets are fifty dollars.
    - The speaker thinks the price of the tickets is reasonable.
    - The speaker might not go if the tickets are too expensive.
    - The speaker will go in spite of the cost of the tickets.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

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.)

I'm serving a casserole *although* Lee is a vegetarian. (The speaker is serving the casserole no matter what.)

I'm serving a casserole *because* Lee is a vegetarian. (Lee's diet is the reason the speaker is serving a casserole.)

### DIRECTIONS

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

- 
- 1 Jamal is talking about going hiking. The weather is hot.
    - A The hot weather is the reason Jamal will go hiking.
    - B Jamal may not go hiking.
    - C Hot weather will prevent Jamal from going hiking.
  - 2 Mom might take the apartment. It has three bedrooms.
    - A Mom will not take a three-bedroom apartment.
    - B Having three bedrooms is important to Mom.
    - C The number of bedrooms is what makes Mom want the apartment.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

We could ski at Big Creek. Their trails are for beginners.

Sample Solutions:

We could ski at Big Creek, *but* their trails are for beginners.  
(The speaker is not sure about skiing at Big Creek.)

We could ski at Big Creek *unless* their trails are for beginners.  
(The speaker does not want to ski on beginner trails.)

We could ski at Big Creek *since* their trails are for beginners.  
(The speaker's reason for skiing at Big Creek is because there are beginner trails.)

### DIRECTIONS

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

- 1 The club can meet at my house. There are a lot of members.
  - A The club may too big to meet at the speaker's house.
  - B A lot of members cannot fit into the speaker's house.
  - C The club is so big it needs a large place to meet, such as the speaker's house.
- 2 I might buy one of these suits. The colors are quite muted.
  - A The speaker does not want to buy a suit with muted colors.
  - B The muted colors are what makes the speaker like the suit.
  - C The speaker is uncertain about buying a suit because the colors are muted.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

Grandpa will visit us in the summer. He is retired.

Sample Solutions:

Grandpa will visit us in the summer *because* he is retired.  
(Grandpa's reason for visiting is that he is retired.)

Grandpa will visit us in the summer *unless* he is retired.  
(Grandpa may visit earlier if he retires before the summer.)

Grandpa will visit us in the summer *although* he is retired.  
(Grandpa will visit in the summer even though he could come another time.)

### DIRECTIONS

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

- 
- I would like to give you these coins. They are valuable.
    - The value of the coins will not prevent the speaker from giving them away.
    - The speaker might give away the coins if they are not valuable.
    - The high value of the coins is the reason the speaker wants to give them away.
  - Joe will go to summer camp. Joe is playing baseball.
    - Joe will go to summer camp if he is not playing baseball.
    - Playing baseball will not prevent Joe from going.
    - Playing baseball is the reason Joe is going to summer camp.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Original Sentences:** Science is my favorite subject.

I have science second period.

We do experiments and take field trips during school.

**Sample Solution 1:** Science, my second period class, is my favorite subject because we do experiments and take field trips during school.

**Sample Solution 2:** I have science second period; it is my favorite subject because we do experiments and take field trips during school.

### 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** Your body loses heat.

Your body loses heat in cold weather.

Your body loses heat in different ways.

**2** Inhaling cool air and exhaling warm air is one way to lose heat.

This type of heat loss is called respiration.

Little can be done to prevent heat loss through respiration.

**3** Skin loses heat through sweat.

Skin loses heat when fluids are spilled on the body.

This type of heat loss is called evaporation.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Original Sentences:** My big sister plays soccer.

She started playing soccer at age five.

She is on her school's varsity soccer team now.

**Sample Solution 1:** When my big sister was five, she started playing soccer, and now she plays on her school's varsity soccer team.

**Sample Solution 2:** My big sister, who now plays on her school's varsity soccer team, started playing soccer when she was five.

### 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 Soccer players get exercise.**

They get exercise by running after the ball.

Soccer players have excellent muscle tone.

**2 Soccer can be played almost anywhere.**

To play soccer, you need only two things.

You need a grassy field and a soccer ball.

**3 Some Americans prefer baseball to soccer.**

They ignore soccer's advantages over baseball.

I like soccer better than baseball.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Original Sentences:** Melanie lives on the North Carolina coast.  
Her house was ruined by a hurricane last year.  
Her family was saved by early warnings.

**Sample Solution 1:** Melanie's house on the North Carolina coast was ruined by a hurricane last year, but her family was saved by early warnings.

**Sample Solution 2:** Even though Melanie's family was saved by early warnings, her house on the North Carolina coast was ruined by a hurricane last year.

### 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 Hurricanes are intense tropical storms.  
They have winds of at least 74 miles per hour.  
Hurricanes can cause extensive destruction.
  - 2 The hurricane has a center.  
It is called the eye of the hurricane.  
In the eye, winds are generally calm.
  - 3 Wall clouds surround the eye.  
They consist of heavy rain.  
They also consist of fierce winds.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Original Sentences:** Many jellyfish had washed ashore.

We had to be careful where we walked.

Jellyfish stings can be painful.

**Sample Solution 1:** We had to be careful where we walked because many jellyfish had washed ashore, and their stings can be painful.

**Sample Solution 2:** Jellyfish stings can be painful, and many had washed ashore, so we had to be careful where we walked.

### 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 bodies of jellyfish are shaped like bells.  
Jellyfish are made of a jellylike substance.  
The jellylike substance gives them their name.
  - 2 One class of jellyfish is called a scyphozoan jellyfish.  
It comes in many colors.  
It can be seen at the coast.
  - 3 Sea wasps are found off the coast of Australia.  
Their stings are poisonous.  
Their stings can kill people in less than three minutes.

## Sentence Combining

### MODEL

**Original Sentences:** My mother had her old car for seven years.  
She could have kept it even longer.  
She bought a new one.

**Sample Solution 1:** Before buying her new car, my mother had her old one for seven years and could have kept it even longer.

**Sample Solution 2:** Even though my mother could have kept her seven-year-old car longer, she bought a new one.

### 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 People depend on cars for work and for school.  
They also depend on them for pleasure.  
Cars cause air pollution.
  - 2 Japan produces the largest number of cars.  
The United States has the biggest car market.  
Over two hundred million cars are registered in the United States.
  - 3 To avoid accidents, drivers must drive defensively.  
Defensive drivers anticipate problems.  
Defensive drivers pay attention to other drivers, road conditions, and traffic signs.