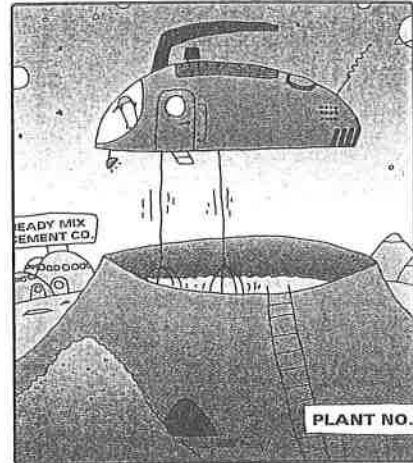


Sentence Combining with Phrases

Experienced writers often combine short, simple sentences into longer, more meaningful ones by using a phrase in one of the sentences. The following types of phrases are often the key when it comes to sentence combining: **prepositional**, **participial**, **infinitive**, and **appositive phrases**. (Turn to page 95 and sections 451.2-451.3 and 455.1 in *Write Source 2000* to read about these phrases as you work on the sentences that follow.)



EXAMPLES

Infinitive Phrase:

I watched to see it land.

(*To see it land* is an infinitive phrase.)

Prepositional Phrase:

I watched from my bedroom window.

(*From my bedroom window* is a prepositional phrase.)

Appositive Phrase:

I watched from my bedroom window, a great viewing place.

(*A great viewing place* is an appositive phrase renaming "window.")

Participial Phrase:

Wondering about the bird, I watched from my bedroom window.

(*Wondering about the bird* is a participial phrase describing "I.")

Combined Sentence:

Wondering about the bird, I watched from my bedroom window, a great viewing place, to see it land.

Directions

Combine each pair of simple sentences using the type of phrase indicated in the parentheses. The first sentence has been done for you.

- The movie is scary. It is showing at the Hargrove Theater.
(participial phrase)

The movie showing at the Hargrove Theater is scary.



2. Frank and Phil waited for their pizza. They are the famous Fettucini brothers. (**appositive phrase**)

3. Glenna tore into a jelly-filled doughnut. It was from the “chewy and gooey” shelf in the bakery. (**prepositional phrase**)

4. Terrance studied each mountain bike. He wanted to determine which one would best meet his needs. (**infinitive phrase**)

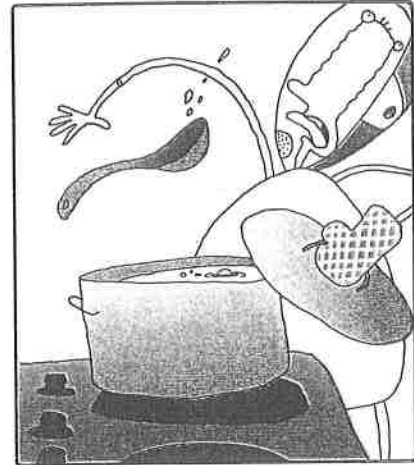
5. Alex blew a hole in one of his basketball shoes. He was running down the court. (**participial phrase**)

6. Josie’s hair can be uncontrollable. It is uncontrollable especially in wet weather. (**especially + a prepositional phrase**)

7. The Girls Next Door played at the last school dance. They are music’s answer to apple pie and sugar cookies. (**appositive phrase**)

Sentence Combining with Phrases

Ideas from short sentences can be combined into longer units of thought by moving a phrase from one sentence to the other. To learn how to combine sentences in this way, study the examples below as well as the examples in your handbook. (Turn to page 95 in *Write Source 2000* for this information.)



EXAMPLES

Shorter Sentences:

The spaghetti sauce tastes gross. It is on the stove.

Combined Sentence Using a Prepositional Phrase:

The spaghetti sauce *on the stove* tastes gross.

Shorter Sentences:

Bruce was actually reading a book. Bruce is a self-proclaimed book hater.

Combined Sentence Using an Appositive Phrase:

Bruce, *a self-proclaimed book hater*, was actually reading a book.

Directions

Combine each pair of simple sentences using the phrase asked for in parentheses. The first one has been done for you.

1. It was April 3, 1999. I got my braces off. (**prepositional phrase**)

_____ *On April 3, 1999* _____, I got my braces off.

2. My first-grade teacher loved to play Simon Says. My first-grade teacher's name was Mr. Simon. (**appositive phrase**)

Mr. Simon, _____,

loved to play Simon Says.

3. Johanna won two medals last week. She's a first-rate gymnast. (**appositive phrase**)

Johanna, _____, won two medals last week.

4. Manuel is studying. He's at the library. (**prepositional phrase**)

Manuel is studying _____.

5. Mike cheerfully volunteered to help his little brother. His little brother needed help with his math homework. (**prepositional phrase**)

Mike cheerfully volunteered to help his little brother _____

6. Todd goes to the movies twice a week. He's the neighborhood movie freak. (**appositive phrase**)

Todd, _____, goes to the movies twice a week.



Next Step In the space below, write one original sentence naming six members of your family (aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, or pets may be included) or six people who live in your neighborhood. Use an appositive phrase for each name (Cheeks, my fuzzy hamster; Libby, my older sister; . . . are all in my family).

Sentence Combining with Phrases

Readers expect a certain amount of substance and rhythm in a piece of writing. Their expectations aren't met if the writing is full of choppy sentences. That's why sentence-combining exercises can be so helpful. They give you practice producing sentences with enough body and form to keep readers interested in your ideas. See the examples below. (Also, turn to page 95 in *Write Source 2000* for additional explanations and examples.)



EXAMPLES

Infinitive Phrase:

I ran to see the first pitch.

(*To see* is an infinitive phrase.)

Prepositional Phrase:

I ran to the bleachers.

(*To the bleachers* is a prepositional phrase.)

Appositive Phrase:

I ran to the bleachers, my usual spot.

(*My usual spot* is an appositive phrase renaming "bleachers.")

Participial Phrase:

Worried about being late, I ran to the bleachers.

(*Worried about being late* is a participial phrase describing "I.")

Combined Sentence:

Worried about being late, I ran to the bleachers, my usual spot, to see the first pitch.

Directions

Combine each pair of short sentences using the type of phrase indicated in parentheses. (Share your results.)

1. I returned the stale Gummi Bears candy. It had been purchased at Ralph's Candy Shack. (**participial phrase**)

2. We rode in the stretch limousine. It was the one with the gold-plated wheel covers. (**prepositional phrase**)

3. Jerome's idea doesn't surprise me at all. His idea is to run full speed into the ice-cold water. (**infinitive phrase**)

4. My neighbor took me for a short flight in his private plane. He is a commercial pilot. (**appositive phrase**)

5. My older brother already left. He left for his first steel guitar lesson. (**prepositional phrase**)

6. The plot was discovered and stopped. The plot was to "toilet paper" my friend's house. (**infinitive phrase**)

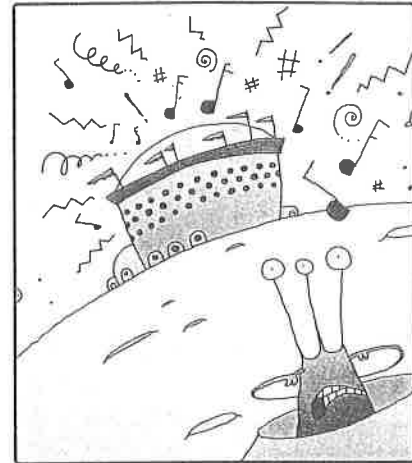
7. The chapter is the one on photosynthesis. It is the one to read carefully. (**infinitive phrase**)



Next Step Spend 3 to 5 minutes writing about what you eat when you are really, really hungry. (You may exaggerate a little.) As you review your writing, combine ideas as necessary to help your sentences read more effectively. Then exchange "menus" with a classmate.

Sentence Combining with a Series of Words or Phrases

Similar ideas from several short sentences can be combined into one sentence using a series of words or phrases. The words or phrases in a series should be stated in the same way (should be parallel) so that the sentence does not sound awkward. (Turn to page 94 in *Write Source 2000* for more information.)



EXAMPLE

The soccer fans were loud. They were rowdy. They destroyed things.

The soccer fans were *loud, rowdy, and destructive*.

(The words in the series are parallel. *Loud, rowdy, and destructive* are all adjectives.)

Directions

Check off the words or phrases in each sentence below that will make each series parallel. The first one has been done for you.
Important Note: The last item in the series is always correct.

- At the start of the World Series, the crowd sang the national anthem
 loudly, proudly, ___ bad, and off-key.
- The umpire yelled "Play ball" in a
___ not pleasant sounding, ___ loud, ___ raspy, and monotone voice.
- The veteran pitcher was
___ winding up, ___ watching the catcher, ___ sneaky, and checking first base.
- He fired a split-finger fastball that
___ curved in, ___ is doing funny things, ___ dropped off, and tailed away.
- The batter hit the ball to the shortstop who
___ charged, ___ scooped, ___ jumped, and threw in time for the out.

Directions

Combine the ideas in the shorter sentences into one sentence that contains a series of parallel words or phrases. The first one has been done for you.

1. "That pitch was inside," argued the manager. "And it was high and tight."

"That pitch was inside, high, and tight," argued the manager.

2. The announcer yelled, "That ball is going. It's still going. It's gone!"
-

3. The batter hit a home run. He hit a single and a triple, too.
-

4. The team's uniform has a red jersey. The cap is blue, and the pants are white and gray.
-
-

5. The old stadium has a crumbling wall. Its roof leaks, and its seats wobble.
-

6. The umpire called, "There's one ball. There's one strike. There's one out."
-

7. The relief pitcher scowled and stared. He kicked and threw.
-

8. That pitcher throws a blazing fastball. He has a sharp curveball. He also throws a sinking slider.
-
-



Next Step Think of a sports figure that you admire. Write a list of words that describe him or her. Combine three or more similar words in a parallel series and use the series in a sentence.