

Signs: A Grammar Handbook

Answers to Exercises

Section IV

Chapter 29

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Revise any fragments below into full sentences.

EXAMPLE: Many people have had accidents at the tree-covered stop sign. For instance, my neighbor John. → Many people, including my neighbor John, have had accidents at the tree-covered stop sign.

1. Nothing has been done to fix the problem. No tree work. No sign moving.

No tree work or sign moving has been done to fix the problem.

2. I like to visit my friends on Elm Street. Who have a pool and a hot tub.

I like to visit my friends on Elm Street, who have a pool and a hot tub.

3. My friends' daughter had an accident at the stop sign at Sixth and Elm. Not seeing the sign.

Not seeing the stop sign at Sixth and Elm, my friend's daughter had an accident.

4. The city manager needs to take the accidents seriously. Along with other city officials losing more funds due to court cases.

The city manager, along with other city officials losing funds due to court cases, needs to take the accidents seriously.

5. Running for office to fix the small problems of our city, including the overgrown trees that are blocking traffic signs.

My uncle is running for office to fix the small problems of our city, including the overgrown trees that are blocking traffic signs.

Chapter 30

EXERCISE 1

Directions: The following paragraph contains five comma splices. Correct the errors by turning the comma splices into compound sentences.

I've never been one for believing in astrological signs; I couldn't really even tell you what my sign, Scorpio, actually means. But every now and then, I'll run across a daily horoscope chart, and curiosity gets the better of me. One day in particular, my horoscope said to be careful in business dealings and avoid conflict. I had been having a disagreement with one of my clients, who was threatening to give her business to our biggest competitor, so immediately that situation came to mind as I read the horoscope over my morning breakfast. As I walked into the office later that morning, my secretary informed me that the client was waiting on me—and not happy. I quickly made up an excuse and left the office, remembering what was in store for Scorpios that day. Come to find out, the client's anger was not directed at me, but because she wasted her time coming to the office that morning, she decided to take her business elsewhere. My decision to avoid the conflict altogether resulted in my losing this client and significant income for my company. Needless to say, I try to avoid horoscopes now.

EXERCISE 2

Directions: The following paragraph contains five run-on sentences. Correct them by adding the appropriate punctuation.

Who would have guessed that a simple piece of fruit would become synonymous with innovative technology? Well this is exactly what has happened with the symbol for Apple, Inc. With the increasing international popularity of the iPhone, Apple's logo is becoming one of the most recognizable symbols in business and technology today. The trademark silhouette of an apple missing a bite has been around practically since the company's inception, although the company's earliest logo features a sketch of Isaac Newton sitting under the apple tree. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs hired Rob Janoff in 1976 to redesign the company's logo, and the iconic rainbow apple design was born. This version of Apple's apple remained in use until a redesign of the Macintosh operating system and computer hardware in 1998 warranted a monochrome makeover. Two more versions of the symbol would follow: an aqua theme in 2001 and the current glass theme unveiled in 2003, both of which gave the trademark a three dimensional, textured appearance. Though it's already an internationally recognized symbol, the Apple logo will only become even more ubiquitous as the company continues to expand.

Chapter 31

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Underline the noun clauses in the following sentences, and then label the types of noun clauses. FOR EXAMPLE: This section contradicted my belief that you should use a comma with all noun clauses. (appositive clause)

1. The assumption that English is the most difficult language to learn has not been proven.

Appositive Clause

2. What we know about learning English is only a small piece of the language puzzle.

Nominal Relative Clause

3. Linguists know that many languages are learned in similar ways.

Nominal Relative Clause

4. Some people seem to like the idea that English is difficult for others to learn.

Appositive Clause

5. However, this so-called reason is why some non-English speakers give up on learning English.

Nominal Relative Clause

EXERCISE 2

Directions: Underline the relative clauses in the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: Language learners who study their new language in school usually do not speak any better than those who learn their new language through immersion.

1. When living in a language's culture, you can learn more than just the vocabulary that is introduced in a textbook.
2. Many language learners who live outside their native country find themselves learning new vocabulary from another language quickly.
3. The younger that a language learner is, the more chance she has of learning a new language.

4. Language textbooks, which are often published by a variety of publishers, can only get you so far into your new language.

5. It is a good idea to stay as long as you can in the country of the language that you are learning.

EXERCISE 3

Directions: Underline the adverbial clauses in the following sentences, and circle the subordinator.

1. When you travel to a foreign country, it is a good idea to bring a travel guide.

2. Although travel guides can be helpful, they cannot get you out of complicated situations.

3. If you do find yourself with a serious problem in a foreign country, you should check if there is an embassy located near you.

4. Finding an embassy is a good idea, so that you feel more secure when dealing with the problem.

5. While embassy employees can usually help you with serious problems, they cannot provide a translator for you for everyday use.

EXERCISE 4

Directions: Identify six fragments in the following paragraph, and change them into grammatically correct sentences.

Our office was chosen to design the latest advertising campaign for an internationally known sporting goods company. They've specifically requested a series of promotional billboards, which will be displayed along highways in major cities. Because of the company's high profile, our focus and dedication to the project is of the utmost importance, and we've also been told to keep the details of the project a secret. This advertising campaign will bring a significant amount of revenue to our relatively small company, so my boss has told me that he will be creating a new administrative position, which will be filled by an internal promotion. The promotion, however, will be contingent upon the success of this latest campaign. With this information, the office is dedicated to not only satisfying our

client, but also excelling in this project to ensure our boss promotes one of the many qualified, hard-working employees in the office.

Chapter 32

EXERCISE 1

Label the sentence type (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) for each sentence in this paragraph.

Complex: It is often difficult to figure out where a language actually begins.

Complex: The problem is that historical records only date back so far.

Compound: There are usually no recordings of early language; we can only guess at their initial sounds and words.

Complex: Historical documents that include symbols, characters, and drawings can help.

Compound: Language changes quickly, and that also complicates investigating the beginnings.

Simple: For instance, English dictionaries add and delete words during each publication period.

Complex: Words that may be slang today can be common words in a decade.

Compound: Languages rarely add new conjunctions, subordinators, or prepositions; however, they do add new nouns, verbs, and adjectives quite frequently.

Simple: It is a historical linguist's job to analyze the history of languages.

Complex: Even though this task can be frustrating at times, it can also be quite rewarding.