



REVISION

Combining sentences

WHY COMBINE SENTENCES?

1. To show the reader the relationships that exist among ideas of different importance
2. To avoid the repetition of a single, simple sentence pattern that draws attention to itself rather than to the ideas in the paper



HOW DO I COMBINE SENTENCES?

Use appositives

Use participial phrases

Use absolute phrases

HOW TO USE APPOSITIVES

What is an appositive?

It is a noun or pronoun phrase that identifies, in different words, the noun or pronoun it follows.

Gulf University for Science and Technology, the first private university in Kuwait, is located in West Mishref.

Appositive *the first private university in Kuwait* identifies noun *Gulf University for Science and Technology*.

HOW TO USE APPOSITIVES

ORIGINAL: Sacajawea was a pregnant fifteen-year-old Indian woman.

She was married to the French fur-trader named Charbonneau.

Sacajawea accompanied her husband on the expedition.

She served as a translator.

HOW TO USE APPOSITIVES

1. Decide on the focus of the information.

Sacagjwea served as a translator on the expedition.

2. Identify the details.

Sacajawea was a pregnant fifteen-year-old Indian woman. She was married to the French fur-trader named Charbonneau. Sacajawea accompanied her husband on the expedition.

3. Integrate the details into the focus sentence as appositives.

REVISED: Sacajawea, a pregnant fifteen-year-old Indian woman accompanied by her husband, the French fur-trader Charbonneau, served as a translator on the expedition.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings is the first book in Maya Angelou's autobiography. It deals primarily with her life as a young girl in Stamps, Alabama.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1

ORIGINAL: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is the first book in Maya Angelou's autobiography. It deals primarily with her life as a young girl in Stamps, Alabama.

REVISED: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, the first book in Maya Angelou's autobiography, deals primarily with her life as a young girl in Stamps, Alabama.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 2

Catgut is a tough cord generally made from the intestines of sheep. Catgut is used for tennis rackets, for violin strings, and for surgical stitching.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 2

ORIGINAL: Catgut is a tough cord generally made from the intestines of sheep. Catgut is used for tennis rackets, for violin strings, and for surgical stitching.

REVISED: Catgut, a tough cord generally made from sheep's intestines, is used for tennis rackets, violin strings, and surgical stitching.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 3

Hermes was the messenger of the Greek gods. He is usually portrayed as an athletic youth wearing a cap and winged sandals.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 3

ORIGINAL: Hermes was the messenger of the Greek gods. He is usually portrayed as an athletic youth wearing a cap and winged sandals.

REVISED: Hermes, the messenger of the Greek Gods, is usually portrayed as an athletic youth wearing a cap and winged sandals.

HOW TO USE PARTICIPIAL PHRASES

What is a participial phrase?

A **participle** is a verb form that functions as an adjective by modifying nouns and pronouns. A participle can be either a present participle or a past participle. A **participial phrase** includes the participle, plus any modifiers and complements.

Frightened by the fireworks, the dog hid under the couch.

1. Past participle *Frightened* and prepositional phrase *by the fireworks* combine to form the participial phrase *Frightened by the fireworks*.
2. The participial phrase serves as an adjective, modifying the noun *dog*.



HOW TO USE PARTICIPIAL PHRASES

ORIGINAL: Marco was injured during the football match. He had to leave the pitch.

HOW TO USE PARTICIPIAL PHRASES

ORIGINAL: Marco was injured during the football match. He had to leave the pitch.

REVISED: Injured during the football match, Marco had to leave the pitch.

HOW TO USE PARTICIPIAL PHRASES

1. Decide on the focus of the information.

Marco had to leave the pitch.

2. Identify the details.

Marco was injured during the football match.

3. Integrate the details into the focus sentence as appositives.

REVISED: Injured during the football match, Marco had to leave the pitch.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 4

Hartford was once known as an industrial center.

Hartford was the home of several manufacturers who made firearms, typewriters, bicycles, and even cars.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 4

ORIGINAL: Hartford was once known as an industrial center. Hartford was the home of several manufacturers who made firearms, typewriters, bicycles, and even cars.

REVISED: Hartford, known as an industrial center, was the home of several manufacturers who made firearms, typewriters, bicycles, and even cars.



PRACTICE EXERCISE 5

Today, great wealth abounds in Hartford.

The wealth is centered in the insurance industry.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 5

ORIGINAL: Today, great wealth abounds in Hartford. The wealth is centered in the insurance industry.

REVISED: Today, centered in the insurance industry, great wealth abounds in Hartford.



PRACTICE EXERCISE 6

The American labor movement has helped millions of workers.
It has won them higher wages and better working conditions.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 6

ORIGINAL: The American labor movement has helped millions of workers. It has won them higher wages and better working conditions.

REVISED: The American labor movement has helped millions of workers, winning them higher wages and better working conditions.

HOW TO USE ABSOLUTE PHRASES

What is an absolute phrase?

An absolute phrase usually consists of a noun or pronoun and a participle, accompanied by modifiers. It is usually located at the beginning of a sentence.

His heart **racing**, he dialed her number.

Noun *heart* is accompanied by participle **racing**.

HOW TO USE ABSOLUTE PHRASES

1. Decide on the focus of the information.

He dialed her number.

2. Identify the details.

His heart was racing.

3. Integrate the details into the focus sentence as appositives.

REVISED: His heart racing, he dialed her number.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 7

Lewis's fame and fortune was virtually guaranteed by his exploits.

Lewis disappointed the entire world by inexplicably failing to publish his journals.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 7

ORIGINAL: Lewis's fame and fortune was virtually guaranteed by his exploits. Lewis disappointed the entire world by inexplicably failing to publish his journals.

REVISED: His fame and fortune virtually guaranteed by his exploits, Lewis disappointed the entire world by inexplicably failing to publish his journals.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 8

Lewis's long journey was finally completed.

His men in the Corps of Discovery were dispersed.

Lewis died a few years later on his way back to Washington, D.C., completely alone.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 8

ORIGINAL: Lewis's long journey was finally completed. His men in the Corps of Discovery were dispersed. Lewis died a few years later on his way back to Washington, D.C., completely alone.

REVISED: His long journey finally completed and his men in the Corps of Discovery dispersed, Lewis died a few years later on his way back to Washington, D.C., completely alone.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 9

Notre Dame stood majestically.

Its rose window glowed in the darkness.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 9

ORIGINAL: Notre Dame stood majestically. Its rose window glowed in the darkness.

REVISED: Its rose window glowing in the darkness, Notre Dame stood majestically.

REFERENCES

Sentence combining skills. (n.d.). Retrieved from
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/combining_skills.htm