

[YOUR NAME]
[DATE]
[CLASS AND SECTION]

Grammar Essentials

1. Writing Workshop Activity 1 (from the page What is a Sentence?)

Let's take some sentence fragments and turn them into full sentences by adding more to the fragments. You may need to add punctuation as well, which we will be discussing in more detail later in the course.

1. Because I am generally a happy person, [ADD AN ENDING HERE]
OR
[ADD AN OPENING HERE] because I am generally a happy person.
2. Although I love school [ADD AN ENDING HERE (or revise to add an introduction to the phrase)].
3. Failing math class [ADD AN ENDING HERE (or revise to add an introduction to the phrase)].
4. Evaluating the evidence [ADD AN ENDING HERE (or revise to add an introduction to the phrase)].

2. Commas

Take a look at these pieces of sentences and decide what you need to insert after the comma.

1. During my last semester in college, _____.
2. If I eat my favorite foods, _____.
3. My favorite foods are pizza, ice cream, and _____.
4. I need to drink coffee in the morning, but _____.

3. Sentence Types

STEP 1: Create a variety of sentences with this initial first sentence, using the different formats listed on the course page. After each example, explain, in your own words, why your answer makes sense. For example, we'll complete the first one for you.

Initial first sentence: Antonio wants to be a filmmaker.

Chosen format: Sentence. Sentence. (Note the period)

Final product: Antonio wants to be a filmmaker. He hopes to make movies about the importance of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Explanation: We have two complete sentences. Each can stand on its own as a sentence.

Now make your own:

1. Sentence, conjunction sentence. (Remember, conjunctions are those little words in fanboys - for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so)

Example:

Explanation:

2. Sentence; sentence. (Note the semicolon.)

Example:

Explanation:

3. Sentence: Sentence. (Note the colon and capital “S” for the second sentence.)

Example:

Explanation:

4. Sentence: anything but a sentence. (Note the colon)

Example:

Explanation:

STEP 2: Indicate one of the punctuation marks (semi-colon, period, colon, and/or comma) that could be used in the sentences and explain why it is correct. Be sure to take note of whether or not the second sentence (or fragment) is capitalized.

For example,

My sister was always the smart one in our family ___ it’s not surprising that she did well in school.

Semi-colon or colon would work because we have two complete sentences.

(Note: A period would not work because of the small i in it’s. A comma would not work because you can’t put two sentences together with just a comma.)

1. I truly dislike the first day of the semester ____ everyone is nervous.
 - Why is this the correct punctuation?
2. The school cafeteria is overpriced ____ but the food is fairly decent.

- Why is this the correct punctuation?
- 3. My father has worked hard every day of his life ____ He inspires me to be successful in college.
 - Why is this the correct punctuation?
- 4. I could not believe the ridiculous prices at the school bookstore __ 20% more than Amazon.
 - Why is this the correct punctuation?

Rubric/Checklist

Activity/Task	Criteria	Student Notes	Points
1. What is a Sentence?	This activity asks you to make sentence fragments into full sentences by adding more to the fragments.		____ / 25 0: Not done 18: Needs improvement 25: Meets expectations 26: Exceeds expectations Instructor Notes:
2. Commas	This activity practices cases in which commas are used. To complete the activity, fill in each blank with an appropriate ending after the comma.		____ / 25 0: Not done 18: Needs improvement 25: Meets expectations 26: Exceeds expectations Instructor Notes:
3.1 Sentence Types part 1	This activity practices the various ways punctuation interacts with sentence types. After writing two sentences (or phrases) as indicated by the instructions, provide an explanation of <i>why</i> you've put them together this way. In other words, what's the grammar rule guiding your decision?		____ / 25 0: Not done 18: Needs improvement 25: Meets expectations 26: Exceeds expectations Instructor Notes:
3.2 Sentence types part 2	This activity is similar to the one above, but this time you should supply the punctuation mark. Then show your thinking about which punctuation would and wouldn't work here.		____ / 25 0: Not done 18: Needs improvement 25: Meets expectations 26: Exceeds expectations Instructor Notes:

All Workshop Activities			Total: ____ / 100
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