

VARYING SENTENCE BEGINNINGS

Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun called the object of the preposition.

Example: Of all us children, I am the most independent.

Single words

- aboard
- about
- above
- across
- after
- against
- along
- alongside
- amid
- amidst
- among
- amongst
- around
- as
- aside
- astride
- at
- athwart
- atop
- barring
- before
- behind
- below
- beneath
- beside
- besides
- between
- beyond
- but
- by
- circa
- concerning
- despite
- down

- during
- except
- excluding
- failing
- following
- for
- from
- given
- in
- including
- inside
- into
- like
- mid
- minus
- near
- next
- notwithstanding
- of
- off
- on
- onto
- opposite
- out
- outside
- over
- pace
- past
- per
- plus
- regarding
- round
- save
- since
- than

- through
- throughout
- till
- times
- to
- toward
- towards
- under
- underneath
- unlike
- until
- up
- upon
- versus
- via
- with
- within
- without
- worth

- near to
- next to
- on to
- out from
- out of
- outside of
- owing to
- prior to
- pursuant to
- regardless of
- subsequent to
- thanks to
- that of

Three words

- as far as
- as well as
- by means of
- in accordance with
- in addition to
- in case of
- in front of
- in lieu of
- in place of
- in point of
- in spite of
- on account of
- on behalf of
- on top of
- with regard to
- with respect to

Two words

- according to
- ahead of
- as of
- as per
- as regards
- aside from
- because of
- close to
- due to
- except for
- far from
- in to
- inside of
- instead of

Appositive Phrases

Appositive phrases rename or identify a noun or pronoun that precedes it. Appositives usually begin with an article (a, an, the), a noun, or a possessive pronoun.

Example: Waterford High School, the best in Racine County, is located in Waterford, Wisconsin.

Participial Phrases

A verbal phrase (past or present tense verb) that acts like an adjective. Participial phrases can be removed from a sentence and the sentence will still make sense. Participial phrases often use commas. Make sure that the phrase you form describes someone or something in the sentence.

Example: Walking home from school, **Chrissy** thought about her dilemma.

Gerund Phrase

A verbal phrase (a verb that ends in *-ing*) that acts like a noun. Gerunds can NOT be removed or the sentence will not make sense or will be a fragment. Commas should not be used with gerund phrases.

Example: Completing a homework assignment is a good feeling.

Infinitive Phrase

An infinitive a verb preceded by the word *to* (*to skip, to think, to win, etc.*).

Example: To compete against these athletes, one must be very good.

CLAUSES

Adjective Clauses

- An adjective clause is a subordinate clause used as an adjective to modify a noun or pronoun.
- An adjective clause tells: which one, what kind, how much, or how many.
- An adjective clause can be removed from the sentence and the sentence will still make sense.

Adverb Clauses

- An adverb clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.
- An adverb clause tells: how, when, where, why, or to what degree.
- Adverb clauses CAN be moved around in sentences.

Noun Clauses

- A noun clause is a subordinate clause used as a noun.
- Noun clauses can NOT be removed from a sentence (won't make sense).
- A noun clause may be used as a: *subject, predicate nominative, direct object, indirect object, or object of a preposition.*

WORDS THAT BEGIN CLAUSES		
Adjective Clauses	Adverb Clauses	Noun Clauses
who, whom, whose, that, which, when, where, why	after, before, unless, although, until, in order that, when, as, if, since, when(ever), as long as, so that, whereas, soon, than, where(ever), because, though, while	that, how, when, where, whether, why, what, whatever, who, whom, whoever, whomever, which, whichever

Example: While I studied, I also listened to music.