

# **Sentence Structure Module**

**English Grammar and Punctuation  
per AP Stylebook**

# Sentence Structure Module

## **Sentence Structure 1**

- Punctuating compound sentences
- Fixing run-on sentences
- Fixing comma splices
- Fixing fragments
- Do Pages 3, 4 & 5 with the lecture.  
(Answers are within the slides.)

## **Exercise: Simple and Compound Sentence Punctuation**

- Do Page 6.

## **Sentence Structure 2**

- Parallel Structure
  - Misplaced Modifiers
  - Dangling Participles
- (There are no worksheets to use with the lectures.)

## **Exercises:**

- Do Page 8, Parallel Structure.
- Do Page 9, Misplaced Modifiers.
- Do Page 10, Dangling Participles.

# SENTENCE STRUCTURE 1

Use this worksheet with the lecture: **Sentence Structure 1**. Do not correct a sentence until prompted to do so by the slide. Insert punctuation in the sentences according to the rules presented in the lecture.

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1. The condor has a wingspan of 10 feet and a featherless head and neck.
2. Chemistry looks at the composition of matter and the changes that happen under certain circumstances.
3. The Cherokee functioned with a written constitution and their leader Sequoyah developed their written language.
4. Thomas Edison invented the phonograph first and then began developing a motion-picture recording and reproducing device to accompany recorded sound.
5. Climate describes general average weather conditions and weather describes short-term conditions.
6. The value of coins usually increases with time but many coins of even fairly recent vintage are now worth more than their face value because of their gold or silver content alone.
7. A person can see in dim light but he cannot distinguish color.
8. The Commonwealth games are open to member nations of the British Commonwealth and were originally called the empire games.
9. Franz Joseph Haydn was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven's teacher and wrote more than 100 symphonies and choral works.
10. The computer was conceived by Charles Babbage in 1835 but never went beyond the design stage.

11. Plants and other renewable natural resources can reproduce and replace themselves but fossil fuels and other unrenewable natural resources cannot.
12. The earth's equator is like a giant greenhouse and plants grow in profusion there.
13. The U.S. FBI was formed in 1908 and it became a powerful government agency under the directorship of J. Edgar Hoover from 1924-1972.
14. King Henry VIII is remembered for his six wives but he ensured future national security of his country by founding a permanent navy.
15. Some rivers flow in existing valleys but most make their own ravine.
16. The 10 warmest years in the last 130 years all occurred in the last two decades of the twentieth century at least three of these years were recorded in the 1990s.
17. The slug is related to the land snail but lacks a shell its eyes and tactile organs are on tentacles.
18. Microwaves play a large role in heating and cooking food they are absorbed by water and fat in food and produce heat from the inside of the food.
19. Our moon's composition is rocky it has a scarred surface from meteorite impacts.
20. Mountains have traditionally been places of mystery, ancient Greeks believed Mount Olympus was the home of the gods.
21. The mountains forming the isthmus of Central America and connecting North and South America.
22. The song that made everyone feel proud to be an American.

23. The medieval kingdom stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea.

24. Long-term exposure to contaminated air resulting in respiratory diseases.

## **SIMPLE AND COMPOUND SENTENCES**

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**This is an open-book practice exercise.**

**Fix the following sentences by using one of the following options:**

**1. Period + Capitalize**

**2. Comma + “FANBOYS” (For And Nor But Or Yet So)**

**3. Semicolon**

**Some sentences may be correct as written.**

**Answer key on page 10**

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1. Foster enjoys bringing new recruits into the Army Reserve but he most likes recruiting prior-service active-duty servicemembers.
2. The new teacher is fluent in German and Spanish but he needs to become certified.
3. Williams plans to pursue opportunities in his current civilian job as a pilot for United Parcel Service and spend more time with his family.
4. The back door of the house opens and illumination from a flashlight pierces the dense smoke within.
5. The squadron members collect school materials and backpacks from the community and distribute them to needy children at Park Elementary School.
6. Some band members wrote original music for the play and others created the story.
7. National Children’s Day is set aside to celebrate and honor America’s children by having parents and grown-ups spend meaningful time with the children it’s about strengthening relationships.
8. The alternative ration package includes a pocket sandwich with a three-year shelf life at room temperature, it is a good ration package for use in units with no microwave or refrigerator.
9. The committee is providing free food and drinks and there will be a local area radio disc jockey playing music.
10. Thomas has been practicing yoga for four years and is certified to teach yoga and Pilates.

## PARALLEL STRUCTURE

**This is an open-book practice exercise. Use proper copy-edit symbols to change the word or word group that is not parallel with the others in the sentence.**

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**Answer key on page 11**

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1. The coach needed to select, train and evaluating the team.
2. My parents promised to buy a new car and that they would let me drive it.
3. The clerk greeted visitors, opened the mail and type letters.
4. A real friend is considerate, helpful and sympathizes with you.
5. After studying her notes, doing the remedial work, and she got a good night's sleep, Jane was prepared to take the test.

## Misplaced Modifiers/Dangling Modifiers

This is an open-book practice exercise.

1. Identify the misplaced modifier that makes the sentence absurd. Move the modifier close to the part of the sentence that it modifies so that the sentence meaning is clear.
2. If a modifier dangles, add a noun for it to modify.

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Answer key on page 12

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1. Serve one of the pies for dessert; keep one of them for the picnic in the refrigerator.
2. The theater offers special prices for students that are inexpensive.
3. The carpenter inspected the board before sawing for nails.
4. The girl watched the seagull in the striped bikini.
5. One can see more than 50 lakes flying at an altitude of 1,000 feet.
6. Found guilty of possession of drugs, the judge sentenced the young man to one year in jail.
7. Although grumbly and rebellious, the road was still built by the workers.
8. Rounding a sharp curve, a stop sign confronted us.

## DOUBLE NEGATIVES

This is an open-book practice exercise.

Eliminate one of the negative words from the sentence so that you do not have a double-negative error.

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Answer key on page 13.

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1. After riding on the roller coaster, we were so dizzy that we could not scarcely stand up.
2. Bill couldn't get along with nobody in the class.
3. Jan couldn't find her report card nowhere in the house.
4. There were many deer in the forest, but we didn't see none.
5. My dad wouldn't take nothing for his bad cough.

Answer key for page 6.

## Sentence Structure

### Simple and Compound Sentence Punctuation

1. Foster enjoys bringing new recruits into the Army Reserve, **but** he most likes recruiting prior-service active-duty servicemembers.
2. The new teacher is fluent in German and Spanish, **but** he needs to become certified.
3. Williams plans to pursue opportunities in his current civilian job as a pilot for United Parcel Service and spend more time with his family.  
(No comma is needed before the word “and” because it is not connecting two sentences.)
4. The back door of the house opens, and illumination from a flashlight pierces the dense smoke within.
5. The squadron members collect school materials and backpacks from the community and distribute them to needy children at Park Elementary School.  
(No commas are needed. The first “and” is connecting words: materials and backpacks. The second “and” is connecting two verbs: collect and distribute.)
6. Some band members wrote original music for the play, **and** others created the story.
7. National Children’s Day is set aside to celebrate and honor America’s children by having parents and grown-ups spend meaningful time with the children. **It’s** about strengthening relationships. (A semicolon is an option here, and – (**for**) is another option.)
8. The alternative ration package includes a pocket sandwich with a three-year shelf life at room temperature; it is a good ration package for use in units with no microwave or refrigerator. (A period is an option here.) ( [**and**] is another option to use here.)
9. The committee is providing free food and drinks, **and** there will be a local area radio disc jockey playing music. (Insert a comma before a coordinating conjunction when the conjunction connects two independent clauses.)
10. Thomas has been practicing yoga for four years and is certified to teach yoga and Pilates. (No comma is needed. There is only one subject attached to the two verbs.)

Answer key for page 7.

## PARALLEL STRUCTURE

**This is an open-book practice exercise. Use proper copy-edit symbols to change the word or word group that is not parallel with the others in the sentence.**

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1. The coach needed to select, train and evaluating the team.  
A: The coach needed to select, train and **evaluate** the team.
  
  2. My parents promised to buy a new car and that they would let me drive it.  
A: My parents promised to buy a new car and **(to) let** me drive it.
  
  3. The clerk greeted visitors, opened the mail and type letters.  
A: The clerk greeted visitors, opened the mail and **typed** letters.
  
  4. A real friend is considerate, helpful and sympathizes with you.  
A: A real friend is considerate, helpful and **sympathetic**.
- 
1. After studying her notes, doing the remedial work, and she got a good night's sleep, Jane was prepared to take the test.  
A: After studying her notes, doing the remedial work, and **getting** a good night's sleep, Jane was prepared to take the test.

Answer key for page 8.

## Misplaced Modifiers/Dangling Modifiers

This is an open-book practice exercise.

1. Identify the misplaced modifier that makes the sentence absurd. Move the modifier close to the part of the sentence that it modifies so that the sentence meaning is clear.

2. If a modifier dangles, add a noun for it to modify.

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1. Serve one of the pies for dessert; keep one of them for the picnic in the refrigerator.

A: Serve one of the pies for dessert; keep one of them **in the refrigerator** for the picnic.

2. The theater offers special prices for students that are inexpensive.

A: The theater offers special prices **that are inexpensive** for students.

3. The carpenter inspected the board before sawing for nails.

A: The carpenter inspected the board **for nails** before sawing.

4. The girl watched the seagull in the striped bikini.

A: The girl **in the striped bikini** watched the seagull.

5. One can see more than 50 lakes flying at an altitude of 1,000 feet.

A: **Flying at an altitude of 1,000 feet**, one can see more than 50 lakes.

6. Found guilty of possession of drugs, the judge sentenced the young man to one year in jail.

A: The judge sentenced the young man **found guilty of possession of drugs** to one year in jail.

A2: Found guilty of possession of drugs, **the young man was sentenced by the judge to one year in jail.**

7. Although grumbly and rebellious, the road was still built by the workers.

A: Although grumbly and rebellious, **the workers** still built the road.

A2: The road was still built by the workers **although they were grumbly and rebellious.**

8. Rounding a sharp curve, a stop sign confronted us.

A: **As we rounded a sharp curve**, a stop sign confronted us.

A2: Rounding a sharp curve, **we were confronted by a stop sign.**

Answer key for page 9.

## DOUBLE NEGATIVES

This is an open-book practice exercise.

Eliminate one of the negative words from the sentence so that you do not have a double-negative error.

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1. After riding on the roller coaster, we were so dizzy that we could not scarcely stand up.

A: After riding on the roller coaster, we were so dizzy that we **could scarcely** stand up.

A2: After riding on the roller coaster, we were so dizzy that we **could not** stand up.

2. Bill couldn't get along with nobody in the class.

A: Bill couldn't get along with **anybody** in the class.

A2: Bill **could get** along with nobody in the class.

3. Jan couldn't find her report card nowhere in the house.

A: Jan **couldn't** find her report card **anywhere** in the house.

A2: Jan **could find** her report card **nowhere** in the house.

4. There were many deer in the forest, but we didn't see none.

A: There were many deer in the forest, but we didn't see **any**.

A2: There were many deer in the forest, but we **saw none**.

5. My dad wouldn't take nothing for his bad cough.

A: My dad **wouldn't take anything** for his bad cough.

A2: My dad **took nothing** for his bad cough.