

Teaching Notes

Sentence Combining

Overview

The fifteen transparencies that follow provide a variety of activities designed to increase sentence-combining skills.

Types of Sentence-Combining Activities

Three basic types of sentence-combining activities are included.

- On five transparencies students are directed to combine pairs of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into another:

Two Sentences: Louisa bought a new skirt. It was purple.

Sample Solution: Louisa bought a new *purple* skirt.

- On five transparencies students are given clues and directed to combine two sentences to create a particular meaning:

Two Sentences: I'm serving a casserole. Lee is a vegetarian.

Sample Solutions: I'm serving a casserole *if* Lee is a vegetarian.
(The speaker is not sure whether Lee is a vegetarian.)

I'm serving a casserole *unless* Lee is a vegetarian.
(The speaker will serve something else if Lee is a vegetarian.)

- On five transparencies students are given three short sentences and directed to combine them in different ways:

Original Sentences:

Science is my favorite subject.

I have science second period.

We do experiments and take field trips during science.

Sample Solution 1:

Science, my second period class, is my favorite subject because we do experiments and take field trips.

Sample Solution 2:

I have science second period; it is my favorite subject because we do experiments and take field trips.

Answers

Examples of sentence solutions are included on the Answer Key pages that follow.

Answer Key

Sentence Combining

Transparency 77

- 1 Have you seen Robert's blue sweater?
- 2 My friends and I went for a walk after dinner.
- 3 An exchange student studying U.S. history will live with Rita's family this summer.
- 4 After the clambake, we watched the sunset from the porch.
- 5 Jesse's school in Amarillo, Texas, closes when it snows.

Transparency 78

- 1 I bought my cat, Bella, a new pink collar made of nylon.
- 2 My little brother wants to play video games all the time.
- 3 Derrick had an operation on his knee two years ago.
- 4 Did you know Emilio learned how to water ski as a nine-year-old child?
- 5 Maggie accidentally knocked over the groom when she was dancing at my cousin's wedding.

Transparency 79

- 1 Make sure you tell Rebecca that we have a pop quiz in math today.
- 2 Our history teacher, Mr. Wilcox, is an avid traveler.
- 3 Madeline writes stories about ferrets and submits them to magazines.
- 4 Are you going to the meeting after school?
- 5 Grace's excellent idea involved raising money for the school play.

Transparency 80

- 1 Mr. Goetz, our substitute teacher, was a professional baseball player.
- 2 Arriving late, I sneaked into the classroom.

- 3 Travis scored 50 points in last night's game, setting a school record.
- 4 My uncle and aunt from New Jersey will visit us in May.
- 5 Brandon received an award from the principal.

Transparency 81

- 1 Elizabeth, a successful artist, paints pictures of New England scenes.
- 2 My father played bass guitar in a rock band.
- 3 I'm throwing a fourteenth birthday party for Zeke on Friday.
- 4 Leaving the store, Taylor and I discovered we had bought the same sunglasses.
- 5 Exhausted and weak, Marcus crossed the finish line after three long hours.

Transparency 82

- 1 A I will learn how to in-line skate before I play soccer.
- 1 B I will learn how to in-line skate after I play soccer.
- 1 C I will learn how to in-line skate unless I play soccer.
- 2 A The crowds will leave after the performance ends.
- 2 B The crowds will leave before the performance ends.
- 2 C The crowds will leave until the performance ends.

Transparency 83

- 1 A I would like to send you this cotton fabric even though you need a costume.
- 1 B I would like to send you this cotton fabric because you need a costume.
- 1 C I would like to send you this cotton fabric unless you need a costume.
- 2 A We want to go to the concert because the tickets are fifty dollars.

- 2 B We want to go to the concert unless the tickets are fifty dollars.
- 2 C We want to go to the concert even though the tickets are fifty dollars.

Transparency 84

- 1 A Jamal is talking about going hiking because the weather is hot.
- 1 B Jamal is talking about going hiking although (or if) the weather is hot.
- 1 C Jamal is talking about going hiking unless the weather is hot.
- 2 A Mom might take the apartment unless it has three bedrooms.
- 2 B Mom might take the apartment if (or because) it has three bedrooms.
- 2 C Mom might take the apartment because (or if) it has three bedrooms.

Transparency 85

- 1 A The club can meet at my house, but (or unless) there are a lot of members.
- 1 B The club can meet at my house unless there are a lot of members.
- 1 C The club can meet at my house since there are a lot of members.
- 2 A I might buy one of these suits unless the colors are quite muted.
- 2 B I might buy one of these suits since the colors are quite muted.
- 2 C I might buy one of these suits, but the colors are quite muted.

Transparency 86

- 1 A I would like to give you these coins although they are valuable.
- 1 B I would like to give you these coins unless they are valuable.
- 1 C I would like to give you these coins because they are valuable.
- 2 A Joe will go to summer camp unless he is playing baseball.

- 2 B Joe will go to summer camp although he is playing baseball.
- 2 C Joe will go to summer camp because he is playing baseball.

Transparency 87

The following solutions are suggestions. Students' answers may vary but should retain the meaning of the original sentences.

- 1 In cold weather, your body loses heat in different ways.
Your body loses heat in different ways during cold weather.
- 2 Respiration, inhaling cool air and exhaling warm air, is one way to lose heat, but little can be done to prevent it.
Little can be done to prevent heat loss through inhaling cool air and exhaling warm air, or respiration.
- 3 Heat loss through sweat or through fluids being spilled on the body is called evaporation.
Your body loses heat through evaporation when you sweat or when fluids are spilled on the body.

Transparency 88

The following solutions are suggestions. Students' answers may vary but should retain the meaning of the original sentences.

- 1 Soccer players have excellent muscle tone because they get exercise by running after the ball.
Since soccer players get exercise by running after the ball, they have excellent muscle tone.
- 2 Because you need only two things, a grassy field and a soccer ball, soccer can be played almost anywhere.
Soccer can be played almost anywhere since you need only a grassy field and a soccer ball.

- 3** I like soccer better than baseball, but some Americans, who ignore soccer’s advantages over baseball, prefer baseball.

Some Americans prefer baseball to soccer, ignoring soccer’s advantages over baseball, but I like soccer better.

Transparency 89

The following solutions are suggestions. Students’ answers may vary but should retain the meaning of the original sentences.

- 1** Hurricanes, intense tropical storms, have winds of a least 74 miles per hour and can cause extensive destruction.

Intense tropical storms that have winds of at least 74 miles per hour and can cause extensive destruction are called hurricanes.

- 2** The center of the hurricane, where winds are generally calm, is called the eye.

The eye is the center of the hurricane where winds are generally calm.

- 3** Surrounding the eye are wall clouds that consist of heavy rain and fierce winds.

Wall clouds, consisting of heavy rain and fierce winds, surround the eye.

Transparency 90

The following solutions are suggestions. Students’ answers may vary but should retain the meaning of the original sentences.

- 1** The bodies of jellyfish are shaped like bells and are made of a jellylike substance that gives them their name.

Jellyfish get their name from the jellylike substance that forms their bell-shaped bodies.

- 2** A scyphozoan jellyfish, one class of jellyfish that comes in many colors, can be seen at the coast.

One class of jellyfish that comes in many colors and can be seen at the coast is called a scyphozoan jellyfish.

- 3** Found off the coast of Australia, sea wasps have poisonous stings that can kill people in less than three minutes.

Sea wasps are found off the coast of Australia; their poisonous stings can kill people in less than three minutes.

Transparency 91

The following solutions are suggestions. Students’ answers may vary but should retain the meaning of the original sentences.

- 1** Even though cars cause air pollution, people depend on them for work, for school, and for pleasure.

People depend on cars for work, for school, and for pleasure in spite of the fact that they cause air pollution.

- 2** Japan produces the largest number of cars, but the United States has the biggest car market with over two hundred million cars registered in the United States.

Even though the United States has the biggest car market, with over two hundred million cars registered, Japan produces the largest number of cars.

- 3** Defensive drivers anticipate problems and pay attention to other drivers, road conditions, and traffic signs in order to avoid accidents.

To avoid accidents, drivers must drive defensively, anticipating problems and paying attention to other drivers, road conditions, and traffic signs.

- Remind students that they can combine sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into another.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: Louisa bought a new skirt. It was purple.

Sample Solution: Louisa bought a new *purple* skirt.

Two Sentences: I could see the stage. I was standing on my chair.

Sample Solution: *Standing on my chair*, I could see the stage.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

- 1 Have you seen Robert's sweater? It is blue.
- 2 My friends and I went for a walk. We went after dinner.
- 3 An exchange student will live with Rita's family this summer. The exchange student is studying U.S. history.
- 4 We watched the sunset from the porch. We did this after the clambake.
- 5 Jesse's school closes when it snows. He lives in Amarillo, Texas.

- Remind students that they can combine sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into another.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: My mother really appreciated the roses we gave her. There were a dozen of them, and they were red.

Sample Solution: My mother really appreciated the *dozen red* roses we gave her.

Two Sentences: Ms. Wygand gave us pencils. She gave them to us before the test.

Sample Solution: *Before the test*, Ms. Wygand gave us pencils.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

- 1 I bought my cat, Bella, a new collar. It is pink and made of nylon.
- 2 My little brother wants to play video games. He wants to play them all the time.
- 3 Derrick had an operation on his knee. It happened two years ago.
- 4 Did you know that Emilio learned how to water ski as a child? He was nine years old.
- 5 Maggie accidentally knocked over the groom when she was dancing. It happened at my cousin's wedding.

- Remind students that they can combine sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into another.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: As a girl, my grandmother worked in a rose field. She was ten years old.

Sample Solution: As a *ten-year-old* girl, my grandmother worked in a rose field.

Two Sentences: I take out the trash after breakfast. It is my least favorite chore.

Sample Solution: I take out the trash, *my least favorite chore*, after breakfast.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

- 1 Make sure you tell Rebecca that we have a pop quiz today. The quiz is in math.
- 2 Mr. Wilcox is an avid traveler. He is our history teacher.
- 3 Madeline writes stories and submits them to magazines. Her stories are about ferrets.
- 4 Are you going to the meeting? The meeting is after school.
- 5 Grace had an excellent idea. Her idea involved raising money for the school play.

- Remind students that they can combine sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into another.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: I've just seen a picture of my father. It shows how he looked with a crew cut.

Sample Solution: I've just seen a picture of my father *with a crew cut*.

Two Sentences: The trunk was gathering dust. It was chained and locked.

Sample Solution: *Chained and locked*, the trunk was gathering dust.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

- 1 Mr. Goetz is our substitute teacher. He was a professional baseball player.
- 2 I sneaked into the classroom. I arrived late.
- 3 Travis scored 50 points in last night's game. He set a school record.
- 4 My uncle and aunt will visit us in May. They are from New Jersey.
- 5 Brandon received an award. The principal gave it to him.

- Remind students that they can combine sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into another.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Two Sentences: The house needs to be repaired. It was built in 1860.

Sample Solution: The house, *built in 1860*, needs to be repaired.

Two Sentences: I spent eleven hours on the bus. I was traveling from Texas to Florida.

Sample Solution: I spent eleven hours *traveling from Texas to Florida* on the bus.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each pair of sentences by inserting a word or phrase from one sentence into the other. You may need to add commas or change the forms of words.
- Write your answers on your paper.

- 1 Elizabeth paints pictures of New England scenes. She is a successful artist.
- 2 My father played in a rock band. He played bass guitar.
- 3 I'm throwing a birthday party for Zeke on Friday. He will be fourteen.
- 4 Taylor and I discovered we had bought the same sunglasses. We were leaving the store.
- 5 Marcus crossed the finish line after three long hours. He was exhausted and weak.

- Remind students that they can improve short, choppy sentences by combining them to create more interesting sentences and that different conjunctions convey different meanings.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

I will study. I go to class.

Sample Solutions:

I will study *before* I go to class. (Studying will occur before class.)

I will study *after* I go to class. (Studying will occur after class.)

I will study *until* I go to class. (Studying will occur up to the time class begins.)

I will study *unless* I go to class. (Studying won't occur if the speaker goes to class.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

1 I will learn how to in-line skate. I play soccer.

A The speaker will learn to in-line skate and then play soccer.

B The speaker will play soccer and then learn in-line skating.

C The speaker will choose to do only one sport.

2 The crowds will leave. The performance ends.

A The speaker thinks the crowds will leave once the show has ended.

B The speaker thinks the crowds will not like the performance.

C The speaker thinks the crowds do not like this performance but may return for the next one.

- Remind students that they can improve short, choppy sentences by combining them to create more interesting sentences and that different conjunctions convey different meanings.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Lilly will buy a gift. Her sister bought flowers.

Sample Solutions:

Lilly will buy a gift *because* her sister bought flowers.
(Her sister's purchase is the reason why Lilly will buy a gift.)

Lilly will buy a gift *even though* her sister bought flowers.
(Her sister's flowers could be a gift, but Lilly wants to buy one anyway.)

Lilly will buy a gift *unless* her sister bought flowers.
(Lilly isn't sure if she should buy a gift.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two sentences in each set three different ways. The three clues will help you choose conjunctions.
-
- I would like to send you this cotton fabric. You need a costume.
 - The fabric won't meet the recipient's need for a costume, but the speaker is sending it anyway.
 - The recipient's need for a costume is the reason the speaker is sending the fabric.
 - The speaker will not send the fabric if the recipient would rather have a costume.
 - We want to go to the concert. The tickets are fifty dollars.
 - The speaker thinks the price of the tickets is reasonable.
 - The speaker might not go if the tickets are too expensive.
 - The speaker will go in spite of the cost of the tickets.

- Remind students that they can improve short, choppy sentences by combining them to create more interesting sentences and that different conjunctions convey different meanings.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

I'm serving a casserole. Lee is a vegetarian.

Sample Solutions:

I'm serving a casserole *if* Lee is a vegetarian. (The speaker is not sure whether Lee is a vegetarian.)

I'm serving a casserole *unless* Lee is a vegetarian. (The speaker will serve something else if Lee is a vegetarian.)

I'm serving a casserole *although* Lee is a vegetarian. (The speaker is serving the casserole no matter what.)

I'm serving a casserole *because* Lee is a vegetarian. (Lee's diet is the reason the speaker is serving a casserole.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

1 Jamal is talking about going hiking. The weather is hot.

A The hot weather is the reason Jamal will go hiking.

B Jamal may not go hiking.

C Hot weather will prevent Jamal from going hiking.

2 Mom might take the apartment. It has three bedrooms.

A Mom will not take a three-bedroom apartment.

B Having three bedrooms is important to Mom.

C The number of bedrooms is what makes Mom want the apartment.

- Remind students that they can improve short, choppy sentences by combining them to create more interesting sentences and that different conjunctions convey different meanings.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

We could ski at Big Creek. Their trails are for beginners.

Sample Solutions:

We could ski at Big Creek, *but* their trails are for beginners.

(The speaker is not sure about skiing at Big Creek.)

We could ski at Big Creek *unless* their trails are for beginners.

(The speaker does not want to ski on beginner trails.)

We could ski at Big Creek *since* their trails are for beginners.

(The speaker's reason for skiing at Big Creek is because there are beginner trails.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

- 1 The club can meet at my house. There are a lot of members.
 - A The club may too big to meet at the speaker's house.
 - B A lot of members cannot fit into the speaker's house.
 - C The club is so big it needs a large place to meet, such as the speaker's house.
- 2 I might buy one of these suits. The colors are quite muted.
 - A The speaker does not want to buy a suit with muted colors.
 - B The muted colors are what makes the speaker like the suit.
 - C The speaker is uncertain about buying a suit because the colors are muted.

- Remind students that they can improve short, choppy sentences by combining them to create more interesting sentences and that different conjunctions convey different meanings.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Grandpa will visit us in the summer. He is retired.

Sample Solutions:

Grandpa will visit us in the summer *because* he is retired.
(Grandpa's reason for visiting is that he is retired.)

Grandpa will visit us in the summer *unless* he is retired.
(Grandpa may visit earlier if he retires before the summer.)

Grandpa will visit us in the summer *although* he is retired.
(Grandpa will visit in the summer even though he could come another time.)

DIRECTIONS

- Combine the two short sentences in each set three different ways. The clue sentences will help you decide which conjunctions to use.

- 1 I would like to give you these coins. They are valuable.
 - A The value of the coins will not prevent the speaker from giving them away.
 - B The speaker might give away the coins if they are not valuable.
 - C The high value of the coins is the reason the speaker wants to give them away.
- 2 Joe will go to summer camp. Joe is playing baseball.
 - A Joe will go to summer camp if he is not playing baseball.
 - B Playing baseball will not prevent Joe from going.
 - C Playing baseball is the reason Joe is going to summer camp.

- Students can combine these sentences in numerous ways by using conjunctions, varying punctuation, and inserting words or phrases.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: Science is my favorite subject.

I have science second period.

We do experiments and take field trips during school.

Sample Solution 1: Science, my second period class, is my favorite subject because we do experiments and take field trips during school.

Sample Solution 2: I have science second period; it is my favorite subject because we do experiments and take field trips during school.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

1 Your body loses heat.

Your body loses heat in cold weather.

Your body loses heat in different ways.

2 Inhaling cool air and exhaling warm air is one way to lose heat.

This type of heat loss is called respiration.

Little can be done to prevent heat loss through respiration.

3 Skin loses heat through sweat.

Skin loses heat when fluids are spilled on the body.

This type of heat loss is called evaporation.

- Students can combine these sentences in numerous ways by using conjunctions, varying punctuation, and inserting words or phrases.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: My big sister plays soccer.

She started playing soccer at age five.

She is on her school's varsity soccer team now.

Sample Solution 1: When my big sister was five, she started playing soccer, and now she plays on her school's varsity soccer team.

Sample Solution 2: My big sister, who now plays on her school's varsity soccer team, started playing soccer when she was five.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

1 Soccer players get exercise.

They get exercise by running after the ball.

Soccer players have excellent muscle tone.

2 Soccer can be played almost anywhere.

To play soccer, you need only two things.

You need a grassy field and a soccer ball.

3 Some Americans prefer baseball to soccer.

They ignore soccer's advantages over baseball.

I like soccer better than baseball.

- Students can combine these sentences in numerous ways by using conjunctions, varying punctuation, and inserting words or phrases.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: Melanie lives on the North Carolina coast.
Her house was ruined by a hurricane last year.
Her family was saved by early warnings.

Sample Solution 1: Melanie's house on the North Carolina coast was ruined by a hurricane last year, but her family was saved by early warnings.

Sample Solution 2: Even though Melanie's family was saved by early warnings, her house on the North Carolina coast was ruined by a hurricane last year.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

-
- 1** Hurricanes are intense tropical storms.
They have winds of at least 74 miles per hour.
Hurricanes can cause extensive destruction.
 - 2** The hurricane has a center.
It is called the eye of the hurricane.
In the eye, winds are generally calm.
 - 3** Wall clouds surround the eye.
They consist of heavy rain.
They also consist of fierce winds.

- Students can combine these sentences in numerous ways by using conjunctions, varying punctuation, and inserting words or phrases.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: Many jellyfish had washed ashore.

We had to be careful where we walked.

Jellyfish stings can be painful.

Sample Solution 1: We had to be careful where we walked because many jellyfish had washed ashore, and their stings can be painful.

Sample Solution 2: Jellyfish stings can be painful, and many had washed ashore, so we had to be careful where we walked.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

- 1** The bodies of jellyfish are shaped like bells.
Jellyfish are made of a jellylike substance.
The jellylike substance gives them their name.
- 2** One class of jellyfish is called a scyphozoan jellyfish.
It comes in many colors.
It can be seen at the coast.
- 3** Sea wasps are found off the coast of Australia.
Their stings are poisonous.
Their stings can kill people in less than three minutes.

- Students can combine these sentences in numerous ways by using conjunctions, varying punctuation, and inserting words or phrases.
- Examples of sentence solutions are presented in the Answer Key.

Sentence Combining

MODEL

Original Sentences: My mother had her old car for seven years.
She could have kept it even longer.
She bought a new one.

Sample Solution 1: Before buying her new car, my mother had her old one for seven years and could have kept it even longer.

Sample Solution 2: Even though my mother could have kept her seven-year-old car longer, she bought a new one.

DIRECTIONS

- Combine each set of sentences two different ways. Give the two sentences completely different beginnings.
- Use conjunctions, insert words or phrases, add commas or semicolons, or change the forms of words.

- 1 People depend on cars for work and for school.
They also depend on them for pleasure.
Cars cause air pollution.
- 2 Japan produces the largest number of cars.
The United States has the biggest car market.
Over two hundred million cars are registered in the United States.
- 3 To avoid accidents, drivers must drive defensively.
Defensive drivers anticipate problems.
Defensive drivers pay attention to other drivers, road conditions, and traffic signs.