

Sentence Exercises



Dive for the verb (the action).

- Some countries with a wealth of oil become poor.
- Some countries with a wealth of oil **become** poor.
- The consequences of the resource curse depend on the management of the increased revenue.
- The consequences of the resource curse **depend** on the management of the increased revenue.
- The oil market is a volatile market with frequent booms and busts.
- The oil market **is** a volatile market with frequent booms and busts.

After finding the verb (the action), identify the subject (the actor).

- Some countries with a wealth of oil **become** poor.
- **Some countries with a wealth of oil** **become** poor.
- The consequences of the resource curse **depend** on the management of the increased revenue.
- The **consequences of the resource curse** **depend** on the management of the increased revenue.
- The oil market **is** a volatile market with frequent booms and busts.
- The **oil market** **is** a volatile market with frequent booms and busts.

Change fragments into complete sentences.

- *While I walked to the ocean. I realized that it was going to rain.
- While I walked to the ocean, I realized that it was going to rain.
- *I wrote my thesis on an interesting topic. So, I enjoyed it.
- I wrote my thesis on an interesting topic, so I enjoyed it.
- *Chapter II reviewed literature applicable to China U.S. historical relations as well as recent cyber-events. Because the China U.S. cyber agreement is so recent that not much data exists.
- Chapter II reviewed literature applicable to China U.S. historical relations as well as recent cyber-events because the China U.S. cyber agreement is so recent that not much data exists.

Are the commas here properly connecting two independent clauses (ICs)?

- I walked to the ocean, I realized that it was going to rain.
 - No
 - A comma alone between two ICs makes a run-on sentence, known as a comma splice. One fix: I walked to the ocean, and I realized it was going to rain. (Comma and coordinating conjunction holding two ICs together). Another fix: I walked to the ocean and realized it was going to rain. (all one IC)
- I chose a thesis topic that interested me, so I enjoyed writing it.
 - Yes.
 - A comma and “so,” one of the coordinating conjunctions, properly connects these two ICs.

FANBOYS?

- F
- A
- N
- B
- O
- Y
- S

Are the commas here proper?

- I do not know what to write for my thesis, or how to write it.
 - No.
 - Make sure a second subject and second verb exists. Here, the comma splits one IC unnecessarily. One fix: I do not know what to write for my thesis or how to write it. Another fix: I do not know what to write for my thesis, and I do not know how to write it.
- Chapter II reviewed literature applicable to China U.S. historical relations as well as recent cyber-events, because the China U.S. cyber agreement is so recent that not much data exists.
 - No.
 - "Because" is a subordinating conjunction (a dependent marker word) like after, when, and while, so this sentence is actually an IC DC, requiring no comma. Easiest fix is to remove the comma. You might also put the DC starting with because at the beginning depending on the context.

What about semi-colons connecting two ICs?

- I walked to the ocean; I realized that it was going to rain.
 - Yes.
 - A semi-colon alone can connect two ICs.
- I attended the security training; and I enjoyed it.
 - No.
 - Putting “and,” or any coordinating conjunction after a semi-colon makes the second part not a complete sentence. If I start talking and say to you “and I enjoyed it,” you are likely to wonder what I enjoyed. A semi-colon connects only two ICs (or complete sentences).

Okay, then, are these semi-colons being properly used?

- I do not know what to write for my thesis; or how to write it.
 - No.
 - Similar to the last example, “or” is a coordinating conjunction. How would you fix while keeping the semi-colon?
 - One possible fix: I do not know what to write for my thesis; I also do not know how to write it.
- Chapter II reviewed literature applicable to China U.S. historical relations as well as recent cyber-events; because the China U.S. cyber agreement is so recent that not much data exists.
 - No.
 - The subordinating conjunction (because) makes the second half of this sentence a DC, not a full sentence on its own. How would you fix it while keeping the semi-colon?
 - One possible fix: Chapter II reviewed literature applicable to China U.S. historical relations as well as recent cyber-events; the China U.S. cyber agreement is so recent that not much data exists.

How about these semi-colons?

- I do not know what to write for my thesis; however, I will figure out how to write it.
 - Yes.
 - Similar to their ability to start a sentence, conjunctive adverbs can be used directly after a semi-colon. Don't forget to follow them with a comma!
- Chapter III gave my methodology for researching a new design for the electoral college; subsequently, Chapter IV examines one case study to demonstrate the usefulness of my proposed framework.
 - Yes.
 - “Subsequently” is also a conjunctive adverb. These buggers come in handy for quickly and specifically demonstrating connection between ideas. Using them appropriately increases the flow of your writing. What three places might you use them?

Sentences Practice: correct grammar,
prevent zombie-hacking, and cut the fluff.



Subject + Verb (+Object) where the subject is the actor = active voice. Is the actual actor the subject here?

- My **brother** **was** attacked by a herd of turkeys.
 - A **herd of turkeys** attacked my brother.
- The **legislation** **was** stalled by a group of lobbyists.
 - A **group of lobbyists** stalled the legislation.
- **Clean air** **is** necessary for people.
 - **People** need clean air.
- The **door** **was** locked by the murderer.
 - The **murderer** locked the door.
- **Passive sentences** **were** being used by the students.
 - The **students** used passive sentences.
- The **executive order** **was** signed by the president.
 - The **president** signed the executive order.
- The **Nobel Prize** **was** received by me.
 - I **received** the Nobel Prize.

The legislation that would save humanity was presented by the people. After six months of seeing no congressional action, the people were frustrated by the waiting. Toilet paper and rotten eggs were gathered by some of the people. The ensuing stench of Capitol Hill was documented by many people on Facebook.

- READ THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES AND ADD “BY ZOMBIES” AFTER THE VERB PHRASE TO SEE IF IT’S IN THE PASSIVE VOICE.
- My brother was attacked. The legislation was stalled. The door was locked. Passive sentences were being used. The executive order was signed. The Nobel Prize was received. Many people were killed.

- PRACTICE CUTTING UNNECESSARY USE OF THE CONTINUOUS TENSE IN THE SENTENCES BELOW.
- A wild herd of turkeys were attacking my brother.
-
- A group of lobbyists were stalling the legislation.
-
- People are needing clean air.
-
- The murderer was locking the door.
-
- The students were using passive sentences.
-
- The president was signing the executive order.
-
- I was receiving the Nobel Prize.

- CUT THE FLUFF
- There exist four ways to resolve conflict.
-
- Writing papers is something that requires planning.
-
- The passive voice was taught to me by my second grade teacher.
-
- I think conflict teaches us lessons about ourselves.
-
- I believe it is important to consider strategy before engaging in war. Considering strategy first produces more effective tactics.

- Therefore Congress will vote on ACA.

- *Therefore, Congress will vote on ACA.*

- *Congress will, therefore, vote on ACA.*

- The thesis examines cybersecurity, and finds that it can be improved.
- *The thesis examines cybersecurity and finds that it can be improved.*
- *The thesis examines cybersecurity, and the analysis finds that it can be improved.*

- At the heart of things Jeff wants to help people.
- *At the heart of things, Jeff wants to help people.*

- Jeff wants to help people however he sometimes forgets to take care of himself.

- *Jeff wants to help people; however, he sometimes forgets to take care of himself.*

- Jeff has cultivated strength, Jeff also cultivates empathy.
- *Jeff has cultivated strength; Jeff also cultivates empathy.*
- *Jeff has cultivated strength and also cultivates empathy.*

- Although Jeff wants to see the world change. He doesn't always know how to help. Still he tries.

- *Although Jeff wants to see the world change, he doesn't always know how to help. Still, he tries.*

- My paper analyzes three ways to prevent corruption so the Venezuelans can enjoy a higher quality of life.
- *My paper analyzes three ways to prevent corruption, so the Venezuelans can find groceries.*

- Uber gives the drivers about a 40% cut but the drivers pay for their own gas.

- *Uber gives the drivers about a 40% cut, but the drivers pay for their own gas.*

- Chapter I introduced the importance of increasing on-ship communications, and reviewed the communications improvements of the last twenty-five years as well as the current challenges.

- *Chapter I introduced the importance of increasing on-ship communications, and it reviewed the communications improvements of the last twenty-five years as well as the current challenges.*

- *DoD cyber-security challenges include management of two different groups of people.*

- *Correct already 😊*

- *Chapter IV presents my methodology; my reasoning stems from a core understanding that we must save as many lives as possible.*

- *Correct already 😊*

- United States capital cities include:
Lansing, Michigan, Sacramento,
California, and Carson City, Nevada.
- *United States capital cities include:*
Lansing, Michigan; Sacramento,
California; and Carson City, Nevada.

- Congress votes on ACA;
tomorrow.



- *Congress votes on ACA
tomorrow.*

- Most experience tough times, however, the kindness that people demonstrate to each other can make all the difference.

- *Most experience tough times; however, the kindness that people demonstrate to each other can make all the difference.*

- The chapter showed the history and development of the Italian police forces; next up, the current challenges.

- *The chapter showed the history and development of the Italian police forces; next, the chapter examines the current challenges.*

- The students were challenged by the very idea of writing a thesis.

• *The very idea of writing a thesis challenged the students.*

- The thesis writing process is made easier by daily practice.

• Daily practice makes the thesis writing process easier.

- Students can receive help from the Thesis Processing Office.
- *The Thesis Processing Office can help students.*

- *Many people were saved.*

- *Zombies saved many people.*

- *Successful students were offered new positions.*
- *Recruiters offered new positions to successful students.*

- *There are three important reasons to study the financial system, including...*

- *Three important reasons to study the financial system include:*

- *It is important to consider diplomacy as core to military strategy.*

- *We consider diplomacy as core to military strategy.*

- *I am sure that things will work out.*

- *Things will work out.*

A scenic view of a coastline. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach with some dark rocks. The ocean is blue with white waves breaking onto the shore. In the distance, there are mountains and a large island. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

cohunt@nps.edu

www.mywconline.com