**THE ENGLISH SENTENCE**

"The boy hit the ball"

**ADDING TO THE BASIC FORM**

1. **PHRASES**

1.1. Prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases (the most common kind) consist of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers of that object.

-I bought the video with the carrying case.

-Students wrote papers during the reading break.

-My father liked sitting on the bench in front of our house.

Prepositions

aboard

about

above

across

after

against

along

among

around

at

before

behind

below

beneath

beside

between

beyond

by

concerning

down

during

except

for

from

in

into

like

near

of

off

on

out

over

past

since

through

throughout

till

to

toward

under

underneath

until

up

upon

with

within

without

1.2. Infinitive phrases

Infinitive phrases consist of the infinitive (to followed by the base form of the verb) and any objects or modifiers of the infinitive or its object.

-Sheila has errands to run.

-Napoleon was happy to leave Elba.

-To own a motorcycle is Tom's only ambition.

-My summer project is to brush up on my tennis.

1.3. Participle Phrases

Participle phrases consist of the present participle or past participle of a verb along with any modifiers, objects, or complements of that participle.

-All things considered, I'd rather be rich than poor.

-Alarmed by a wave of burglaries, Mr. Smith installed a security system.

-Having refueled at Heathrow, the plane flew on to Bombay.

1.4. Gerund phrases

Gerund phrases consist of a gerund and its modifiers and objects, if any. (A gerund is a noun made from a verb by adding -ing.) Perfect gerunds consist of a gerund plus a past participle.

-Building their house took my parents many years.

-The boss worried about my not having worked before.

-Her hobby is collecting stamps, but her husband says it should be designing them.

1.5. Noun phrases

A noun phrase consists of a noun and all its modifiers.

-The medium-sized vase with the starburst design was made in Czechoslovakia.

-Mrs. Shaw wore sunglasses too large for her face.

-The culprit was a seedy-looking, middle-aged man with a long, jagged scar over his right eyebrow.

2. **CLAUSES**

A clause is a grammatical sequence of words that contains a subject and a predicate. The two most important types of clauses are independent (or main) clauses and dependent (or subordinate) clauses.

2.1. Independent Clauses

An independent clause is one that can stand alone as a complete sentence.

-When he pulled the shade, it fell on his head.

-Don't talk to Regina until she has had a cup of coffee.

-She sings.

*Methods of joining independent clauses*:

-With a comma and a coordinating conjunction (the comma precedes the coordinating conjunction):

-and, but, or (most commonly used)

-nor, yet

-for (introducing a clause expressing cause), so (introducing a clause expressing result)

-With a semi-colon.

NOTE: It is incorrect to join two main clauses:

-With no punctuation at all (this constitutes a **run-on sentence**)

-With a comma (this constitutes a **comma splice**).

2.3. Dependent Clauses

A dependent clause is introduced by some kind of subordinating word and cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

Introductory Words

Single-word subordinating conjunctions:

after

although

as

because

before

if

lest

once

since

that

unless

until

when

whenever

where

wherever

whereas

while

Phrases (often ending in -that):

as if

as far as

as though

assuming that

but that

even though

for fear that

given (provided) that

if only

inasmuch as

in case

in the event that

in the hope that

in order that

on condition that

on the grounds that

provided that

save that

seeing that

so that

the day (year, etc.) that

so that

to the end that

Relative pronouns :

that

what

which

who

whose

whom

whoever

whatever

NOTE: Do not confuse subordinating conjunctions with conjunctive adverbs like however, therefore, in addition, thus, for example, incidentally, namely, that is, after all, also, besides, further(more), likewise, moreover, second, similarly, what is more, alternatively, in contrast, instead, nevertheless, certainly, indeed, in fact, perhaps, possibly, undoubtedly, accordingly, consequently, hence, in other words, to conclude, now, then, meanwhile, thereafter, at first, etc.

Cotton is cool; however, it needs ironing.

Cotton is cool; in addition, it is easy to launder.

Cotton is cool; thus, it is a popular fabric.

Conjunctive adverbs modify an independent clause, while subordinating conjunctions introduce a dependent clause.

**PUNCTUATION**

1. **COMMAS**

A comma is used:

-Before a coordinating conjunction used to join two main clauses.

-Mary sings, and Tom plays the piano.

-Possibly after a phrase (or phrases) or a dependent clause which comes at the beginning of a sentence (this is an optional comma).

-After the first hour, the women enjoyed the hike enormously.

-Having played football, they were thirsty.

-To set off nonrestrictive clauses or phrases:

[Phrases and clauses used as modifiers are either restrictive or nonrestrictive. A restrictive modifier is essential to the meaning of the sentence or clause in which it appears. A nonrestrictive modifier provides additional information but is not essential to the basic meaning of the sentence or clause. Nonrestrictive modifiers are set off by commas in writing; restrictive modifiers are not.

-The shells that she sells by the seashore are overpriced. (The restrictive clause limits the shells being discussed to those sold by the seashore.)

-The shells, which she sells by the seashore, are overpriced. (All the shells being discussed are overpriced; the nonrestrictive clause simply gives additional information about the shells.)

-The car parked in front of the bank was ticketed. (The phrase parked in front of the bank identifies the specific car being discussed.)

-My car, parked in front of the bank, was ticketed. (The word my specifically identifies the car; the phrase parked in front of the bank simply gives additional information about it.)]

-To set off appositives. (An appositive is a word, phrase, or clause that follows another word and that refers to the same thing or person.)

-The manatee, an aquatic mammal native to Florida, is in danger of extinction.

-A few people were invited, all close friends.

-Ferdinand I was a true Hapsburg, shrewd and stubborn.

-The train left on time, at exactly 09:37.

[Most appositives are nonrestrictive, but noun appositives are sometimes restrictive.

-My son Warren broke his wrist.]

-To set off interrupting and parenthetic elements.

-To separate items in a series.

A comma is not used:

-To split up the two subjects in a compound subject.

-Compound subject: Tom and Mary are getting married.

-To split up the two verbs in a compound verb.

-Compound verb: Mary sings and dances.

-To split up the two objects in a compound object of a verb or the two objects in the compound object of a preposition.

-Compound object of a verb: Tom learned French and German.

-Compound object of a preposition: After drinks and sandwiches, the two friends went for a walk.

-To join two main clauses.

2. **SEMI-COLONS**

A semi-colon is used:

-To join two main clauses (either alone or with "however" or "therefore").

-In a series composed of elements which contain commas.