

Chapter 11 How Phrases Stick Together: Sentence Patterns

Additional information and practice

More practice from Exercise 1

Phrase or a clause.

- a) Yesterday we was conversating with Mr. B. *about the war*.¹ (AAE)
- b) You stay in *your office* too late anymore.² (ME)

More practice from Exercise 2

Find the subject in each sentence. Apply the inversion test to at least four of the examples and pick your test of choice for the remaining ones.

- a) The parrot laughed at their shenanigans. (sE)
- b) John was a-talkin' so loud my eardrums hurt.³ (AE)

More practice from Exercise 3

How many and which objects do the following sentences contain? Provide a test of how you know which constituent is which object, as well as any additional evidence you can think of.

- a) The cats chased the dogs. (sE)
- b) We bought her cats. (sE)

More practice from Exercise 4

Locate the SC, if there is one, in the below sentences.

- a) Ellison is my neighbor. (sE)
- b) Sam called my neighbor. (sE)
- c) At the vet, my cat was very frightened. (sE)
- d) The new show was a huge success. (sE)
- e) Pantyhose cost so much money. (sE)

More practice from Exercise 5

- a) The advertisers made their products successes. (sE)

¹ Baker-Bell, A. (2020), *Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity and Pedagogy*, New York: Routledge, p. 43.

² Krumpelmann, 1939, p.156; cited in Maher, Z., and T. McCoy (2011), 'Positive anymore', *Yale Grammatical Diversity Project: English in North America*. (Available online at <http://vgdp.yale.edu/phenomena/positive-anymore>. Accessed on 2024-02-23). Updated by Katie Martin (2018).

³ Matyiku, S. (2011), 'A-prefixing', *Yale Grammatical Diversity Project: English in North America*. (Available online at <http://vgdp.yale.edu/phenomena/a-prefixing>. Accessed on 2024 -02-24). Updated by Tom McCoy (2015) and Katie Martin (2018).

- b) He was really a-starin' at the picture.⁴ (AE)

More practice from Exercise 6

Determine which sentences feature an AC and which ones feature an Adverbial. Identify all ACs and all Adverbials. Provide evidence for your answers.

- a) They was up on what was called Desolation.⁵ (AE)

Supplemental Exercises

1. Sentence Constituents. Decide how many constituents (i.e., chunks) there are in the following sentences. Simply add vertical lines (or a forward backslash “/”) to separate the constituents.

Example: I studied for the test.

Answer: I/studied/for the test.

- a. We drove.
- b. We drove to Detroit.
- c. The youth group rode the train to Detroit.
- d. My friend funny.
- e. Ice cream cakes are super yummy.
- f. They learned them well.
- g. My friends and I bought some ice cream cakes.
- h. The teacher explained the main ideas to the students.
- i. The newspaper editors gave the readers an interesting article.
- j. The chef baked two humongous cakes for their most loyal customers.
- k. The cats ate all the food.

2. Identify the subject in each sentence. Demonstrate the test you used.

Example: Bob picked out a cat from the shelter.

Test: Q: Who picked out a cat from the shelter?

A: Bob.

➤ Bob is the subject.

- a. We drove.
- b. We drove to Detroit.
- c. The youth group rode the train to Detroit.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ University of South Carolina (n.d.). Grammar and Syntax of Smoky Mountain English (SME), Available online: <https://appalachian-english.library.sc.edu/node/796.html>.

- d. My friend funny.
- e. Ice cream cakes are super yummy.
- f. They learned them well.
- g. My friends and I bought some ice cream cakes.
- h. The teacher explained the main ideas to the students.
- i. The newspaper editors gave the readers an interesting article.
- j. The chef baked two humongous cakes for their most loyal customers.
- k. The cats ate all the food.
- l. It was the cats that went to sleep.
- m. There were many youth groups in Detroit.
- n. Yesterday, the young artist sold their first painting.
- o. More and more, people are getting bored by reality TV.

3. Sentence patterns. Identify the sentence patterns of the following sentences. Demonstrate a test that proved your answer.

Example: Sam / cooked / his mother / dinner.
S/ V / IO / DO

Who cooked dinner? Sam

What did Sam cook? Dinner (DO)

For whom did Sam cook dinner? his mother (IO)

- a. My awesome sister jumped.
- b. Derek walked the adorable cats.
- c. I baked him banana bread.
- d. She became a professor.
- e. She a professor. (AAE, invented)
- f. Mr. Kitty chased Norma Jean.
- g. Daisy May wanted a belly rub.
- h. I love ice cream.
- i. My mother is teaching physics.
- j. She made her intentions clear.
- k. They invited the guests.
- l. Cats purr.
- m. Daisy May a good cat. (AAE; invented)
- n. Daisy May is a good cat.
- o. The teacher called us extremely brilliant.
- p. The performance will be next month.
- q. I adopted a cat.
- r. The cats got their fuzzy paws wet.
- s. He give me a holler.²³ (AAE)
- t. Your professor is in their office.
- u. The presidential candidates gave the press several interviews.
- v. Everyone watched the Superbowl.
- w. The Pats won the game.
- x. The game lasted forever.

- y. He call me son.²⁴ (AAE)
- z. The halftime show was amazing.
- aa. The advertisers made their products successes.
- bb. The students asked me a question.
- cc. The cute cats eat.
- dd. The cats are cute.
- ee. My spouse baked cookies.
- ff. The board named the new hire executive vice president.
- gg. The cats watched the stink bug.
- hh. We bought the cats several treats.
- ii. The cats seem calm.
- jj. They learned the students a lesson.

4. Direct and Indirect Objects. How many and which objects do the following sentences contain? Provide a test of how you know.

- a. The cats chased the dogs.
- b. The cats caught the owner two mice.
- c. We bought her cats.
- d. We bought Gregory two cats.