

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 4th Grade Sentence Structures

### 1. Complete Sentences

A complete sentence is a set of words that contains a subject and a predicate. Here is a basic complete sentence: **Fish swim**. It is possible to have a sentence with just one word. This is called an imperative, and here is an example: **Stop!** When someone gives a command like this, the subject (You) is obvious, although it is not written.

**A. Statements (Declaratives:)** A statement tells, or declares, information to others. A statement begins with a capital letter and ends with a period.

**B. Questions (Interrogatives:)** Questions make inquiries that ask for a reply. A question begins with a capital letter and ends with a question mark.

**C. Commands (Imperatives:)** Commands give advice or instructions. They may make a request or give an order. A command begins with a capital letter and ends with a period.

**D. Exclamations (Exclamatory:)** Exclamations tell strong feelings. An exclamation begins with a capital letter and ends with an exclamation point.

**2. Compound Subjects and Predicates:** A **compound subject** has two or more simple subjects (joined with a conjunction) and one predicate. Example: **The dog, cat, and rabbit went inside the house**. A **compound predicate** has one simple subject and two or more simple predicates (joined by a conjunction. ) Example: **Jeremy swam, ran, and biked during the triathlon**.

### 3. Compound Sentences

Join simple sentences with a comma and a conjunction: **And, but, so, or, yet**

- A. Mike went to bed, **and** he had a dream.
- B. Janet looked through a telescope, **but** she could not see the planet.
- C. Ms. Taylor was happy, **so** she sang a cheerful tune.
- D. Ellen wanted ice cream, **or** she wanted yogurt.
- E. Mr. Gomez lost the contest, **yet** he was not discouraged.

## 4. Using Quotation Marks in Dialogue

When someone is speaking in a sentence, use dialogue. Be sure to punctuate and use capital letters correctly.

**Statement:** "I have gone up in a balloon," Faith said.

**Question:** Dom asked, "What is it like to go up in a balloon?"

**Command:** Pia said, "Tell us about it."

**Exclamation:** "I can't wait to hear!" Dom exclaimed.

## 5. Appositives

Combine two related sentences with commas and a noun or noun phrase.

A. Mr. Jones is a lawyer. B. Mr. Jones goes to court.

**New sentences:** Mr. Jones, a lawyer, goes to court.

A lawyer, Mr. Jones, goes to court.

A. Andre is a French singer from Paris. B. Andre goes to the opera every week.

**New sentences:** Andre, a French singer from Paris, goes to the opera every week.

A French singer from Paris, Andre, goes to the opera every week.

## 6. Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

There are many prepositions, such as: above, across, after, at, before, during, for, from, of, off, in, into, of, on, onto, to, with, without, between, over, and under.

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition. There are also other words in a prepositional phrase, such as articles (a, an, the), adjectives, or nouns.

**Example:** Charles ran the mile with his friends.

## 7. Commas in a Series

You can combine ideas in a sentence using commas.

**Example:** Mr. Jones ate pizza. Mr. Jones ate salad. Mr. Jones ate a cookie.

**Answer:** Mr. Jones ate pizza, salad, and a cookie.

**Example:** Mrs. Garcia went surfing. Mrs. Garcia went roller blading. Mrs. Garcia went camping.

**Answer:** Mrs. Garcia went surfing, roller blading, and camping.

## 8. Adjectives Describe Nouns

Use adjectives to add sensory details and descriptions in your writing.

**Examples:** Beautiful oak trees with brown twisted branches grew.

Forms of verbs called participles can also describe nouns.

**Examples:** Streaking lightning filled the sky.

Booming thunder frightened the cattle.

## 9. Adverbs Describe Verbs

Adverbs describe verbs, and there are many kinds of adverbs. We have learned that many adverbs end in -ly. Also, many adverbs tell when, such as today, yesterday, tomorrow, daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly.

The verb, below, is underlined once. The adverb is underlined twice.

**Examples:** The women ran yearly in the race up the slopes of Mt. Tam.

Arthur is walking rapidly along the bank of the river.

## 10. Avoiding Run-On Sentences

Here is a run-on sentence: **The show begins soon make sure you're there early.**

Make this run-on sentence into two separate sentences.

The show begins soon. **M**ake sure you're there early.

Or, make it into a compound sentence.

The show begins soon, **so** make sure you're there early.

## 11. Using Apostrophes in Possessives

Possessives show ownership. A possessive may be singular ('s.) Or, a possessive can be plural (s'.)

The **tail of the dog** is wagging.

The **dog's tail** is wagging.

The **food dish of the kittens** is empty.

The **kittens' food dish** is empty.

## Using Apostrophes in Possessives (Continued)

Some plural words add "apostrophe s" instead of "s apostrophe."

The **club of the women** meets today.

The **women's club** meets today.

## 12. Using Parentheses in Sentences

Parentheses are often used to enclose information that isn't really important for understanding a sentence. What is written inside the parentheses is less important or extra information.

David (**who has red hair**) came over to play hockey.

For the last five years (**some say longer,**) the house on the hill has been vacant.

## 13. Using the Seven Coordinating Conjunctions Correctly

The conjunctions are: **And, but, for, nor, or, so, yet**. Conjunctions are often used in compound sentences, but they can be used in other ways.

A. Mrs. Franz refuses to eat liver, **nor** will she eat snails.

B. Mr. Smith did not buy the car, **for** it was too expensive.

## 14. Using Pronouns Correctly

The subject pronouns are she, he, it, they, and we.

The object pronouns are her, him, it, them, and us.

Use pronouns to replace nouns in subjects and predicates.

John went to town. **John** is Mary's brother.

John went to town. **He** is Mary's brother.

Megan lent a book to Joseph, and she wanted **the book** back.

Megan lent a book to Joseph, and she wanted **it** back.

