

Sentence Composing

Different Structures for Expansion Closers

1. present participle (phrase)

starts with an -ing form

The Iraqi spy tried to escape, moving like a shadow.

Mike mounted his horse and rode off, wasting no more time.

The toddler crawled down the front sidewalk, laughing the entire time.

2. past participle (phrase)

starts with an -ed/en form

Kenny finally went inside the house, frozen from several hours in the cold,

Karen began to walk down the aisle, dressed in her wedding gown.

Mark handed in her math test, discouraged because he didn't know the final answer.

3. prepositional phrase

starts with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun

Jack rocked back and forth in the swing, on the front porch,

The two little boys played with blocks, at the far side of the room,.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson saw their daughter drive away in their new Lexus convertible.

4. appositive (phrase)

a noun (phrase) that means the same as the subject

Miyax collected food for the long winter, a time of cold and snow

Hawks search for their food from the sky, a beautiful blue expanse..

Harry walked into the classroom with a funny-looking object, a big red nose.

5. adjective clause

starts with a clue word: "who" or "which"

Phil slowly exited Mr. Ross's classroom, which was the last room down the hall.

Jack shared his breakfast with Harry, who was the class clown.

Did you complete the assignment, which had 25 math problems.

6. adverb(s)

one adverb or a pair or more of adverbs (often -ly words)

The police approached the crime scene, slowly and carefully.

Everyone entered the funeral service, sadly.

He approached the President to receive his award, happily,

7. absolute phrase

almost a sentence except that the word *is*, *are*, *was*, or *were* is missing; often starts with a possessive word

The thief surrendered to the police, his hands held up in the air.

Jim jumped into the water, eyes closed and fingers pinching his nose.

Debbie climbed into bed and pulled over the covers, her prayers finished.

8. infinitive (phrase)

starts with an infinitive (*to + verb*)

Jack climbed the lamp post, to get a better view of the parade.

Mr. Jones visited Italy last summer, to learn about the history of Rome.

Gertrude had stomach surgery, to lose weight quickly,

In all of the above cases, a closer always comes at the end of the basic sentence. Remember that these expansions are never complete sentences. They are just words, phrases, or dependent clauses. Also remember that you may combine one type of expansion with another. In other words, you could have an opener AND a subject-verb split AND a closer or any combination of two expanders.