

Sentence Composing

Different Structures for Expansion Openers

1. present participle (phrase)

starts with an -ing form

Moving like a shadow, he tried to escape.

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

Laughing, the toddler crawled down the front sidewalk.

2. past participle (phrase)

starts with an -ed/en form

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

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

Discouraged, she handed in her language test.

3. prepositional (phrase)

starts with a preposition

On the front porch, Jack rocked back and forth in the swing.

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

From his bedroom window, Jack saw his best friend move away.

4. appositive (phrase)

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

A classic Eskimo beauty, Miyax collected food for the long winter.

The class clown, Harry walked into the room with a big red nose.

Raptors, hawks search for their food from the sky.

5. introductory (dependent) clause

starts with a clue word: *after, although, as, because, before, if, when, while, since*

After the final bell rang, he slowly exited the classroom.

While Jack ate breakfast, he watched the morning news.

If you want to pass the test on sentence composing, study this sheet.

6. adjective(s)

one adjective or a pair or more of adjectives without a noun afterwards; sometimes with a comparison

Tall and handsome, the model walked to his place in the show.

As happy as a child getting a Christmas present, Jack received his high school diploma.

Freckled, Jenny smiled at her teacher.

Faster than a speeding bullet, Superman flew to help the screaming woman.

7. adverb(s)

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

Slowly and carefully, the police approached the crime scene.

Sadly, everyone entered the funeral service.

Happily, he approached the President to receive his award.

8. absolute phrase

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

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

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

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

9. infinitive (phrase)

starts with an infinitive (*to + verb*)

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

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

To lose weight quickly, Gertrude had stomach surgery.

In all of the above cases, an opener always comes before the subject of the sentence and refers to that subject. Remember that these expansions are never complete sentences. They are just words, phrases, or dependent clauses.