

Chapter 14: Choppy Sentences

Chapter Review Test 1

The following paragraph has too many choppy sentences. Join at least three pairs of sentences using coordination.

Most people assume that movies have great influence on children. There has never been any documentation to show that this is true. Recently, a nationwide research study was conducted on this very subject. It indicated that children are significantly affected by movies. The researchers asked 6,522 children which movies they had seen. The scientists asked the children if they smoked. The study showed that kids start watching R-rated movies while in the fourth or fifth grade. R-rated movies have twice as much smoking as other films. The researchers' findings may give parents something to think about. The children who saw the most smoking in movies were more than two and a half times as likely to start smoking as the children who saw little smoking in movies.

Chapter 14: Choppy Sentences

Chapter Review Test 2

The following paragraph has too many choppy sentences. Join at least three pairs of sentences using subordination.

I was making a routine business trip. A rental car company caught me by surprise. I brought the car to a stop in the driveway. A rental car company employee suddenly walked out. He took a quick look around the car. He said he had to write up an accident report. I asked him what accident he was talking about. He pointed to the right front bumper of the car. There was a small dent there. I said I had not been in an accident, so I could not have made that dent. The car company added \$500 to my bill for repairs. I later called the car company's manager to complain. She said the company would return my \$500. The rental records showed that the dent was reported before I had rented the car. She added that the company's computers had just been a little slow in reporting the dent.

Chapter 14: Parallelism Problems

Chapter Review Test 3

Correct the parallelism errors in the following paragraph.

These days, hotel guests are more likely to get a magnetic key card than to be given a metal key. Such cards are now used in expensive hotels, in bargain motel chains, and they are used at some bed and breakfasts. The cards are not only less costly for the provider than traditional keys but also they are easy for guests to use. However, some people say the cards have flaws that could endanger guests' security and private. As a result, some hotel chains are looking into other types of keys, such as fingerprint scanners and proximity cards. Fingerprint scanners are more advanced than the use of magnetic cards. Using fingerprints for identification is simple for guests, inexpensive for hotels, and it is secure. Some people, however, will find proximity cards to be more convenient than either magnetic cards or the use of fingerprint scanners. With proximity cards, a sensor in the door lock can tell when a guest's card is nearby, triggering the door to unlock. Whatever type of key you use, be sure to treat it as carefully as you would your credit card, your driver's license, or as you would handle your checkbook.

Chapter 14: Word Choice

Chapter Review Test 4

Rewrite the following sentences to eliminate vague words, slang, wordiness, and clichés.

Researchers have long been wise to the fact that many species of ants protect themselves from enemies through a form of chemical warfare. These ants inject formic acid into other insects. However, a recent study has brought into the public eye a species of ant in Peru, *M. schumanni*, that uses this poison differently. These ants inject formic acid into plants in order to bump them off. The ants hook up with one of their poor, unfortunate plant victims, make a hole in it, stick their abdomen into the plant, and shoot in a dose of a few drops of formic acid. There is no way on earth that a plant can survive this hit. The plants lose most of their leaves within five days and kick the bucket several weeks later. There is something else that is very unusual. It is that the ants attack all plants except one, a type of tree called *D. hirsuta*. In consequence of this, there are areas where only *D. hirsuta* trees grow. The reason behind this phenomenon is that the ants live in tiny cracks in these trees, giving both the ants and the trees a leg up. Having no plant competition, the trees can wolf down an ample abundance of light, nutrients, and water. As more of the trees grow, the ants have more places that they can call home. A colony of *M. schumanni* ants can be big. It can be blessed with a million or more workers and 15,000 queens. Furthermore, these colonies can trudge on for centuries, the researchers found. The largest of the twenty-six areas studied had 351 trees and had been the home sweet home of the same ant colony for more than 800 years.

Chapter 14: Choppy Sentences

14-1: Using Coordination to Join Two Sentences

Combine each of the following pairs of sentences by using coordination.

EXAMPLE

Tim Allen is a well known television and movie actor *but he* ^{, but he} *He* has overcome many obstacles on his way to becoming successful.

1. Tim Allen's life changed when he was eleven years old. His father was killed in a traffic accident.
2. Allen said that nobody could explain to him why his father died. Allen grew up wondering why this happened.
3. At age twenty-seven Allen was arrested for attempting to sell cocaine. He faced a fourteen-month prison term.
4. In 1997, Allen was in trouble with the law again. He was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
5. These incidents could have destroyed Allen's career. He went on to become a successful comedian, actor, and writer.
6. Tim Allen has his own line of signature tools. He has written two successful books.
7. In 1994, his book *Don't Stand Too Close to a Naked Man* was published. That wasn't his only best-seller.
8. Recently, his book *I'm Not Really Here* was published. It was also a best-seller.
9. Allen starred in the film *The Santa Clause*. He also starred in *Galaxy Quest*.
10. Allen knows about the negative effects of abusing alcohol and drugs. He can talk to his daughter honestly about these consequences.

14-2: Using Coordination to Join Two Sentences

Combine each of the following pairs of sentences by using coordination.

EXAMPLE

Planning holiday trips can be difficult/^{, but my} My husband and I found it's possible to find a good compromise.

1. We wanted to go skiing in Colorado. The only time we could both take time off from work was over Christmas.
2. We were hesitant about spending Christmas away from home. We traditionally spent the holidays with our families.
3. We did not want to hurt our families' feelings. We didn't want to miss out on family traditions.
4. Both our families wanted us to spend the holidays with them. They understood our need for some romantic time alone.
5. My husband's parents said that they could easily celebrate the holidays the week before Christmas. They could instead postpone Christmas until New Year's Eve.
6. Excited, my husband and I agreed. We promptly made airline and hotel reservations for Breckenridge, Colorado.
7. We arrived at our hotel a few days before Christmas. Snow was falling lightly in this winter wonderland.
8. No chores or obligations faced us. We actually had time to enjoy the holiday.
9. We walked hand in hand down snow-dusted streets. We stopped in cafés for eggnog and homemade pecan pie.
10. Next year, we may return to the tradition of spending Christmas with our families. Maybe we will return to the snowy mountains of Colorado.

14-3: Using Subordination to Join Two Sentences

Combine each of the following pairs of sentences by using subordination.

EXAMPLE

In June 2005, a twelve-year-old girl was saved from kidnappers. ^{when three} ~~Three~~ lions stood guard by her.

1. The incident occurred in Ethiopia. Kidnapping a young girl is part of an ancient marriage custom.
2. Seven men kidnapped the young girl. They took her to a forest in an isolated area of Ethiopia.
3. For seven days, she was held by the men. They wanted to force her into marriage.
4. The girl's family and the police searched for her. The men beat her repeatedly.
5. The seven men were in for a surprise. Three lions came to the girl's rescue.
6. The men fled the forest. The lions guarded the girl for several hours.
7. The girl's family found her. The lions left the girl's side and returned to the forest.
8. Stuart Williams is a wildlife expert. Most people believe his theory about why the lions protected the girl.
9. The lions did not harm the girl. Her crying probably sounded like a mewing lion cub.
10. The young girl was returned home. Her family called the lions' rescue a miracle.

14-4: Using Subordination to Join Two Sentences

Combine each of the following pairs of sentences by using subordination.

EXAMPLE

Although many
Many of us believe the story of the \$250 Neiman Marcus cookie recipe/^{it}
^ turned out to be just an urban legend.

1. As the story goes, a friend of a friend and her daughter had just finished lunch at a Neiman Marcus café. They decided to order the Neiman Marcus cookie for dessert.
2. The cookies were quite delicious. The mother asked the waitress for the recipe.
3. The waitress said that she could not give away the recipe. The recipe was for sale.
4. The mother asked the waitress the price of the recipe. The waitress replied, “Two fifty.”
5. The mother thought the waitress meant two dollars and fifty cents. She said, “Just add the recipe to my bill.”
6. The credit card statement arrived. The mother was shocked at the \$250 charge for the recipe.
7. The mother complained to the Neiman Marcus accounting department. The company refused to issue a refund.
8. The mother was angry. She made copies of the recipe and distributed them to as many people as she could.
9. This story cannot be true. Neiman Marcus has never served cookies in its restaurant.
10. This story has been proven false. This urban legend is strong and continues to circulate.

Chapter 14: Parallelism Problems

14-5: Editing for Parallelism

Edit the following sentences to make them parallel. If a sentence is correct, write a **C** next to it.

EXAMPLE

Meditation gardens can be found in busy cities, in quiet neighborhoods, and ~~they are sometimes planted~~ on museum grounds.

1. Creating your own meditation garden is easy and a reward.
2. Your meditation garden should be not only relaxing but also a beautiful spot.
3. If you plan your garden well, it will be harmonious and unified.
4. You can also use different textures and colors, which will add interest and be varied.
5. Don't forget to consider drainage, climate, and controlling insects and diseases.
6. When you choose plants, the texture and scent are as important as size and what color the plants are.
7. Creating a focal point, such as a fountain or a trellis, is just as important as to pick the right plants.
8. While a sense of entrance can be created with a trellis or gate, a sense of journey can be created by using a wall.
9. Repeated patterns provide a sense of unity and being connected.
10. Careful planning will result in a meditation garden that will bring you closer to yourself as well as being in nature.

14-6: Editing for Parallelism

Edit the following sentences to make them parallel.

EXAMPLE

To grill a perfect steak, dip it in butter and oil, coat it with a layer of salt and cracked pepper, and ~~you should~~ sear it over a very hot fire.

1. Grilling a good steak begins with a cut of meat that has good marbling (lines of fat) and it has a prime grade.
2. The flavor will be better if the steak is cooked on a charcoal grill rather than frying it in a pan.
3. The coals on the grill must be hot enough to sear the outside of the steak and be forming a crust.
4. The steak should be charred on the outside and tender and juiciness in the middle.
5. The thickness of the steak is more important than sizing.
6. Each steak should be about one and a half inches thick and weighing about a pound.
7. Prepare the steaks with a coating of both fat and add spices, such as salt and pepper.
8. Neither overcook nor should you undercook the steaks; twelve minutes is usually sufficient.
9. It's best to check for doneness by using a meat thermometer rather than to cut into the steak.
10. If you follow these steps, your grilled steaks will be not only tender but also the flavor will be excellent.

Chapter 14: Word Choice

14-7: Editing for Word Choice

Rewrite the following sentences to eliminate vague words, slang, wordiness, and clichés.

EXAMPLE

When Anne Voll lost her high school ring back in ~~the year of~~ 1975, she thought that she would never see it again.

1. In 1975, Anne Voll’s high school ring disappeared somewhere in Downing Park, in the city of Yorktown, New York.
2. Searching for the ring in such a large area was like trying to find a needle in a haystack.
3. Unable to find her ring, Voll was bummed out.
4. Over twenty-five years later, a park foreman named Mike Anderson was using a metal detector to search for objects and substances of monetary worth.
5. Anderson was psyched when he discovered a high school ring bearing initials and the words “Yorktown ‘75.”
6. Since Anderson is as honest as the day is long, he searched through a copy of the 1975 Yorktown high school yearbook.
7. He made the discovery of the fact that the initials on the ring matched Anne Voll’s.
8. When Voll received Anderson’s telephone message about the found ring, she entered a state of profound and enthusiastic pleasure.
9. Anderson was also on Cloud 9 because he was able to return something valuable to its owner.
10. In Voll’s view, Anderson rocks.

14-8: Editing for Word Choice

Rewrite the following sentences to eliminate vague words, slang, wordiness, and clichés.

EXAMPLE

Mrs. Williams's funeral ~~freaked out~~^{disturbed} many people.
^

1. Old Mrs. Williams, my mother's distant great aunt, had kicked the bucket.
2. I hadn't seen Mrs. Williams since I was knee-high to a caterpillar.
3. I attended the funeral only because of the fact that my mother isn't able to drive long distances anymore.
4. The funeral was held a few hours away in a podunk town near Montgomery, Alabama.
5. Even though I hadn't seen Mrs. Williams in years, I was knocked for a loop when I saw her lying in the casket.
6. Mrs. Williams' facial features did not evoke in me any expected or familiar recollection or reminiscences.
7. I knew, however, that Mrs. Williams had been in an unhealthful state for a long time.
8. One by one, the mourners began to whisper to each other, and then there was a hullabaloo. "This woman is not Mrs. Williams!" someone shouted.
9. The funeral director suddenly looked as white as a ghost. He had picked up the wrong body from the morgue.
10. Although we were teed off about the incident, I must admit that I could see the humor in the situation.

Chapter 14: Commonly Confused Words

14-9: Choosing the Right Word

In each of the following sentences, circle the correct word in parentheses.

EXAMPLE

Retired nurse Marian Morris is (quiet, quite) sure that chickens do not have lips.

1. On an unfortunate day in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, Boo Boo the chicken fell into a pond (an, and) passed out.
2. (Its, It's) a good thing that Marian Morris was nearby.
3. Boo Boo was not (conscious, conscience) and was not breathing.
4. Marian Morris (used to, use to) be a nurse.
5. She (new, knew) just what to do.
6. She breathed into (it's, its) beak.
7. The unusual resuscitation had a positive (effect, affect) on Boo Boo.
8. No one was more surprised (then, than) Marian Morris when Boo Boo opened his eyes.
9. It just wasn't Boo Boo's day to (lose, loose) his life.
10. Marian Morris, (your, you're) a hero!

14-10: Editing Commonly Confused Words

Edit the following sentences to correct errors in the use of commonly confused words.

EXAMPLE

their

Many people are heeding ~~they're~~ ^{their} doctors' advice to reduce stress.

1. As everyone knows, prolonged stress can effect one's physical and mental health.
2. One of the best ways to reduce stress is to retreat to a quite place.
3. These days, instead of heading for the beach or to a mountain cabin, many people have found a knew place to relax.
4. Monasteries and abbeys are opening there doors to those who long for silence and solitude.
5. In fact, meditation retreats are more popular now then ever.
6. A silent retreat is and excellent means of quieting both the mind and the body.
7. Silence makes one conscience of one's own thoughts and feelings.
8. Sometimes, it takes silence to fine the answers to some questions.
9. Some people right their thoughts down in a journal.
10. Others simply enjoy the piece that solitude brings.