

Chapter 2 Exercises

The following section contains a variety of exercises that will help you to use the language more precisely. You should follow your instructor's directions in completing them.

2.1 Writing Skills 1

The following sentences are taken from newspapers and television broadcasts. Correct the errors you find by either copy editing or rewriting the sentences. Underline your corrections. Some of the sentences are correct, in which case you should write "correct" in the margin.

1. He is one of the greatest choreographers who has ever lived.
2. The general assumed what was then described as dictorial powers.
3. The couple has two children.
4. Inside the box was a man and a woman.
5. Absent from the meeting were the mayor and two councilmen.
6. Every fireman in the city, 250 in all were called out.
7. A total of 650 eskimos was examined and tested.
8. Only two in four were urgent cases, a group that included cardiacs, asthmatics and those found unconscious.
9. The chairman stated that response to the committee's activities has convinced him that the money for renovation can be raised.
10. Business administration and journalism courses provide the student with good background for work in public relations.
11. Here comes the famous Kilgore College Rangerettes onto the field to perform at halftime.
12. Leading the United States' show of strength were Arthur Ashe and Clarke Graebner.
13. The investigation revealed that none of the team members were involved in illegal endorsements of sports clothing.
14. "There's two knocked out cold on the floor!" the sportscaster shouted.
15. Every one of us have asked that question sometime in our lives.

2.2 Writing Skills 2

Correct the following sentences.

1. Their rival forces meanwhile prepared to meet Wednesday to patch up peace.
2. Pasadena California is the site of the Rose Bowl.
3. It was O. J. Simpson (who, whom) the coach praised so highly.
4. The tomb of the pharaoh had (laid, lain) buried in the desert for centuries.
5. I heard the train whistle at the crossing that was going to Denver.
6. She borrowed an egg from a neighbor that was rotten.
7. For a year we almost heard nothing from our former neighbors.
8. There was a canary in a cage that never sang.

9. We hope that you will notify us if you can attend the banquet on the enclosed post card.
10. Come here Mary and help us.
11. I know she (swum, swims) the channel regularly in this weather.
12. The children looked forward to celebrating Christmas for several weeks.
13. After setting foot on the uninhabited island of Europe, off Africa, to direct the filming of the sea turtles, a hurricane whirled across the Indian ocean and hit the island.
14. He ran swiftly the dog in front of him and plunged into the forest.
15. The casings had (tore, torn) (loose, lose) from their bearings.

2.3 Punctuation 1

In the following sentences, insert the correct punctuation.

1. I subscribe to the *New Yorker Harper's Magazine* and the *New Republic*
2. Seven legislators from the southern part of the state changed their votes and with their help the bill was passed.
3. Do you like your steak rare medium or well done?
4. A tape recorder gives very accurate reproduction and it has the great advantage that it can be used at home as well as at the studio.
5. The gun went off and everyone jumped
6. The new cars are certainly more powerful but it is doubtful that they are any safer
7. Light entered the room through cracks in the walls through holes in the roof and through one small window.
8. Hundreds of church bells ringing loudly after years of silence announced the end of the war
9. The book was lying where I left it
10. The advisor who is never in his office makes registration difficult
11. Some years ago I lived in a section of town where almost everyone was a Republican
12. Hearne was still disclaiming with great eloquence but no one in the crowd was listening
13. I bought a large bath towel
14. We were sitting before the fire in the big room at Twins Farms and Lewis had rudely retired behind the newspaper
15. The ranchmen rode with their families into the little town and encouraged their sons to demonstrate their skill with broken horses

2.4 Pronouns and Verbs

In the following sentences, underline the correct pronoun or verb.

1. He is the player (who, whom) probably will play shortstop.
2. Is this the person (who, whom) you want?
3. Each of the three quarterbacks (is, are) (a) good runner(s).
4. Both Baylor and Arkansas (has, have) won six games and lost two.
5. Either of the two players (are, is) eligible.

6. Each of the members (was, were) in (his or her, their) seat(s) when the session began.
7. (Who, Whom), then, would the tax hurt?
8. Do you know to (who, whom) that notebook belongs?
9. (Who, Whom) is going with the reporter to get a picture of the crash?
10. He declared that everybody must play (his or her, their) part.
11. This story is between you and (I, me).
12. No matter how you look at it, it was (she, her) (who, whom) they opposed.
13. Bryan is the kind of man (whom, who) always thinks before he acts.
14. This is the only one of the typewriters that (is, are) working.
15. Everyone was on (their, his or her) best behavior.

2.5 Verbs

In the following sentences, underline the correct form of the verb.

1. What (lays, lies) in the future for Alaska?
2. He had been (lain, laid) on a stretcher.
3. “(Lay, Lie) down and be quiet for an hour,” he ordered.
4. The 6-year-old boy was just (setting, sitting) there in the ruins, trying not to cry.
5. The Ohio State football team (sat, set) back and enjoyed the movie of its game with Michigan.
6. The men worked all night (raising, rising) a monument in spite of the (raising, rising) tide of the river.
7. After lunch she had (laid, lain) down for a nap.
8. The hard tackling by the Georgia Bulldogs had really (began, begun) to show.
9. Suddenly a cloud of dust (rises, raises) in the west.
10. Had the tight end simply (fell, fallen) on the ball, he would have (caught, caught) it.
11. Spillane (led, lead) you to believe that the butler was the murderer.
12. Chris Gilbert had (proved, proven) to be the outstanding player.
13. He said that he could (loose, lose) his fortune, but he had (chose, chosen) to gamble all he had.
14. The Smiths (use, used) to live in San Francisco.
15. The man was lucky he wasn't (drown, drowned).

2.6 Clauses

In the following sentences, underline the independent clause and circle the subordinate (dependent) clause.

1. They agreed to open negotiations when both sides ceased fire.
2. If he had known, he would never have said that.
3. Since the current was swift, he could not swim to shore.
4. The horse came up to the first jump, when he stumbled and threw Jean off.

5. This is called the cryptozoite stage, after which the plasmodia break out of the liver cells and float about in the bloodstream.
6. An especially big wave rolled in, when I finally managed to get my line unsnagged.
7. While walking past the building, the night watchman noticed the door was unlocked.
8. Harkey's injured knee has failed to heal completely; therefore, he may see little action against Notre Dame on Saturday.
9. The Ace Manufacturing Company, where I used to work, went bankrupt.
10. This last semester, if it has done nothing else, has given me confidence in myself.

Write five correct sentences containing independent and subordinate clauses.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2.7 Punctuation 2

In the following sentences, insert the correct punctuation.

1. Nobody knows the trouble I've seen nobody knows but Jesus.
2. The responsible reporter one who is scrupulously honest will still encounter problems.
3. Abraham Lincoln died on April 15 1865 after being shot while attending a play at Fords Theater.
4. My son was born on Nov 15 1980 It was a Saturday so I didnt get to go to the football game
5. Why don't you come over to my place
6. Writing for the mass media takes much skill perseverance and hard work.
7. Wow I couldnt think of any place better to eat myself.
8. According to my professor the world is absolutely positively flat and you should never forget it.
9. Where are the carpenters where are the bricklayers and most of all where are the gardeners when we need them the most.
10. I couldnt come to class today Jan said because I had the flu.
11. Joe got a new computer which set his parents back a good bit and hes been dying to tell everybody about it.

2.8 Word Choice

In the following sentences, fill in the blanks with one of the words that appears in parentheses. The definitions of many of the words can be found in [Appendix C](#).

1. are good reasons why about to sell house. (there, their, they're)

2. not late give the cat milk. (its, it's, to, too)
3. If going home, take books with you. (your, you're)
4. Do you know the is pleasant ? (whether, weather, there, their, they're)
5. They known for a long time that you would gone if you had heard the game in time. (have, of, 've)
6. Where are many opinions, most people feel justified in holding on to own; and while there are several scientific explanations for stubbornness, be few changes unless we can convince men that they ought to be more open-minded. (there, their, they're, there'll)
7. My objection to the of that school is that he is a man of no . (principal, principle)
8. Not until will you be able to tell whether you have more you need. (than, then)
9. If strap is , you may your books. (lose, loose, you're, your)
10. Not even in the would I the table before eating . (desert, dessert)
11. going to punch nose? (whose, who's)
12. We the ruling without protest, although we all those over 45. (except, accept)
13. His speech the audience greatly. (affected, effected)
14. 50,000 people attend the opening game of the World Series. (Over, More than)
15. He was always one to do things . (different, differently)
16. The bomb, which was to havoc on the whole block, killed so many people that their bodies soon began to . (reek, wreak)
17. The news magazine she subscribed to never seemed to tell her all that she needed to know. (that, which)
18. When he put the book down, he decided that he had just read something very . (unique, unusual)
19. The of Queen Victoria was a long and prosperous one. (rein, reign)
20. He decided to his bike down to the town square to see if he could the things that he had made. (peddle, pedal)
21. The priest chose not to the clothes that were spread across the . (alter, altar)
22. We visited the building, where we saw the state legislature in session. (Capital, capital, Capitol)
23. All of the fraternities on campus came together to form a voting that could not be overcome by the independent students. (block, bloc)
24. He the poor child's way of speaking. (flouted, flaunted)
25. The professor tried her best to make the grading system more . (equal, equitable)
26. I did not make it to the movie last night all the homework I had to do. (due to, because of)
27. She was irritated by the tone he used when he said, "And what have you been doing all week long?" (official, officious)

2.9 Writing Problems

Correct any problems that appear in the following sentences.

1. Gilligan was so charmed by the desert aisle that he decided to marry the movie star.
2. Like that nice Professor said, we should always study for our exams.
3. The cantaloupe-throwing contest was canceled due to averse weather.

4. Rushing to the sight of the crime, the prosecuting attorney was horrified at the grizzly murder scene.
5. The criminal alluded police by hiding under a Toyota Corolla.
6. Fainting illness, the President refused to make the trip to Tulsa.
7. Morgan canceled the funeral service after the dead man turned out to be alive.
8. Less than 100 pumpkins were piled in Smith's car.
9. Hurricane Bubba ravaged the Gulf Coast, causing \$10 billion in damages.
10. The dancing troupe refused to buy their tights at wholesale.
11. The restaurant owners upped the price of rutabagas by 100 percent whenever Mark Arnold came to town.
12. The journalist's cannon of ethics prohibits taking gifts from sources.
13. Journalists should be guided by one principle: Always be accurate.

2.10 Agreement

In the following sentences, underline the correct word.

1. The team, consisting of three boys and three girls, (has, have) a tough schedule this season.
2. None of the candidates (has, have) accepted the invitation to the forum.
3. The faculty (has, have) a meeting scheduled for this afternoon to discuss (its, their) grievances.
4. The drug he took and his lack of sleep (was, were) beginning to have an effect.
5. All of the students in the class tried hard to pass (its, their) final exam.
6. The neighborhood association had certain issues (it, they) wanted to address at the city council meeting.
7. Every journalist should try to write news stories that are as accurate as (they, he or she) can make them.
8. The U.S. Supreme Court normally begins (its, their) annual session on the first Monday of October.
9. Many people in the audience (sees, see) this commercial and (reacts, react) negatively to it.
10. Each parent had (his or her, their) own way of dealing with unruly children.

2.11 Comma Splices and Run-On Sentences

Make sure that each sentence is punctuated correctly. Make whatever changes are necessary to do so. If the punctuation is correct, do not make any marks.

1. I don't know of anyone who went I didn't go myself.
2. The horses came loping into the barn but there was no food for them.
3. There, I said it again, don't do that any more.
4. Many are the times the farmer wished he had bought more land because years ago it was cheap, it was plentiful.

5. The trees in that forest were doomed, they had to be cut down.
6. The St. Louis Cardinals won the National League pennant, while the New York Yankees triumphed in the American League; they will meet in this year's World Series.
7. Where was the truck going, which direction was it heading.
8. He has just finished his seventh mystery novel and he has yet to have one published, he just keeps on trying.
9. John bought a cheap set of watercolors thinking one day he would be a great painter he just wanted to be like Picasso.
10. He has an unusual hobby, he transplants trees, but he says he likes doing it because it gives him a chance to get outside most of the time.