What do you notice?
Where is the verb?
What makes this sentence
Masterfully superb?

What do you notice?
See what its parts do.
Which words make this sentence
Appeal to you?

Look at the sentence;
Observe its construction.
Consider each word
And study its function.

Look closely to see
How the writer places
Each of the words,
The clauses and phrases.

Now imitate the pattern
With your words, one by one;
And build your own sentence.
Now wasn’t that fun?

~ Marge Bloom ~
# Table of Contents

Rationale ~ Implementing Sentence Imitation 4  
Sentence Types 5  
Sentence Construction 6-8  
Common Core State Standards ~ Conventions 9-11  
*First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg 12-16  
*Dear Juno* by Soyung Pak 17-21  
*Whose Habitat Is It?* by *Time for Kids* 22-26  
*Penguin Chick* by Betty Tatham 27-31  
*The Perfect Pet* by Margie Palatini 32-36  
*Charlotte’s Web* by E.B. White 37-41  
*The Strongest One* by Joseph Bruchac 42-46  
*Wolf!* by Becky Bloom 47-51  
*What’s in Store for the Future?* by *Time for Kids* 52-56  
*The Planets in Our Solar System* by Franklyn M. Branley 57-61  
*Author A True Story* by Helen Lester 62-66  
*Surf’s Up Geronimo* by Geronimo Stilton 67-71  
*Stone Soup* by Jon J. Muth 72-76  
*One Riddle, One Answer* by Lauren Thompson 77-81  
*Saving the Sand Dunes* by *Time for Kids* 82-86  
*The Jones Family Express* by Javaka Steptoe 87-91  
*What Do Illustrator’s Do?* by Eileen Christelow 92-96
Clementine by Marla Frazee 97-101
Cook-A-Doodle-Doo! by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel 102-106
Seven Spools of Thread by Angela Shelf Medearis 107-111
Washington Weed Whackers by Time for Kids 112-116
Here’s My Dollar by Gary Soto 117-121
My Very Own Room by Amada Irma Perez 122-126
Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary 127-131
Boom Town by Sonia Levitin 132-136
Beatrice’s Goat by Page McBrier 137-141
A Carousel of Dreams by Time for Kids 142-146
The Printer by Myron Uhlberg 147-151
Animal Homes by Ann O. Squire 152-156
A to Z Mysteries: The Yellow Yacht by Ron Roy 157-161
A Castle on Viola Street by DyAnne DiSalvo 162-166
Wilbur’s Boast by E.B. White 167-171
An American Hero Flies Again by Time for Kids 172-176
Mother to Tigers by George Ella Lyon 177-181
Home-Grown Butterflies by Deborah Churchman 182-186
Superfudge by Judy Blume 187-191
Acknowledgements 192
Developing Sentence Imitation

Rationale

• This book was designed to provide quick daily lessons in grammar, conventions, and craft by noticing sentence patterns from literature and imitating those patterns in writing.
• Each lesson works in conjunction with daily grammar lessons in the reading series. For example, Day 1 of Unit 1 may teach subjects and predicates. Therefore this book’s first lesson would also point out subjects and predicates. If a lesson was about semicolons, then the mentor sentence used in this book would be one that showcases semicolons.
• For Week 6, the review week, popular chapter books were used, pulling sentences to review the prior five weeks of lessons in that unit.
• Regardless of whether you use the reading series or not, the sentences reflect the Common Core State Standards in Language (conventions, vocabulary).
• Please note – There is no need to “parse” each sentence down to its individual parts of speech. The “What Do You Notice” section of each page does provide a more extensive list of notable phrases, clauses, parts of speech, skills, etc. but does so in order to encompass all that might be noticed. The point of “noticing” each sentence is to see how grammar and conventions are used.

Implementing Sentence Imitation

1. Put the sentence from literature on the doc cam (top sentence of the page).
2. Ask the students, “What do you notice about the sentence?”
3. Students may notice everything from conventions, grammar, skills, and tone, to craft.
4. Since each sentence follows the reading series and the skills correspond to the ones being taught in the series, you might lead your students to notice the skill that you want them to imitate.
5. After students have pointed out what they have noticed, show the “imitation” sentence (either the one provided for you in this book or one of your own) and ask them, “What do you notice about this sentence?”
6. Finally, ask the students to write their own sentence based on this pattern.
# Sentence Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple</th>
<th>Compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Independent clause</td>
<td>Independent clause + Coordinating conjunction + Independent clause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurice swims in the summer.</td>
<td>Maurice took skiing lessons, but Billy took swimming lessons. <strong>OR</strong> Independent clause + ; (semicolon) + Independent clause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurice and Billy swim at the pool in the summer.</td>
<td>Maurice took skiing lessons; Billy took swimming lessons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yesterday after school, Maurice and Billy swam and played in the pool.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complex</th>
<th>Compound-Complex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dependent clause, + Independent clause</td>
<td>Independent clause, + Dependent clause, + Coordinating conjunction (or ;)+ Independent clause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When Maurice took skiing lessons, Tom took swimming lessons.</td>
<td>Maurice worked toward the goal <em>that he formulated as a child</em>, and he learned to ski.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong> Independent clause, + Dependent clause</td>
<td>Independent Clause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong> Split independent clause, + Dependent clause, + Split independent clause</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurice, who longed to ski, took lessons.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---
Sentence Construction

Clause – a syntactic construction, containing a subject and predicate, forming part of a sentence or constituting a whole simple sentence.

Dependent Clause (Subordinate Clauses)

Noun Clause – a subordinate clause that functions as a noun and has a subject and verb and follows one of the words in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>how, however</th>
<th>where, whether</th>
<th>whom, whomever</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>that</td>
<td>which, whichever</td>
<td>whose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what, whether</td>
<td>who, whoever</td>
<td>why, when</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjective Clause – a subordinate clause that functions as an adjective and has a subject and verb that follows one of the relative pronouns in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>who</th>
<th>whose</th>
<th>whom</th>
<th>which</th>
<th>that</th>
<th>when</th>
<th>where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Adverb Clause – a subordinate clause that functions as an adverb and has a subject and verb and follows one of subordinating conjunctions in the chart below (these are used most often - AAWWWWUBBIS):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>as</th>
<th>after</th>
<th>although</th>
<th>when</th>
<th>whenever</th>
<th>while</th>
<th>until</th>
<th>because</th>
<th>if</th>
<th>since</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Phrase - a sequence of two or more words that does not contain a finite verb or a subject (e.g. Prepositional phrase -After many months and many wrinkled papers, …)

Functions of a Noun

1. subject
2. direct object
3. indirect object
4. predicate nominative
5. object of the preposition
6. appositive
7. object compliment
### Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjective (Nominative)</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>my, mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he</td>
<td>him</td>
<td>his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>she</td>
<td>her</td>
<td>her, hers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we</td>
<td>us</td>
<td>our, ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>your, yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they</td>
<td>them</td>
<td>their, theirs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>whom</td>
<td>whose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Demonstrative**

| this | that | these | those |

**Indefinite**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIngular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Either</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>another</td>
<td>everyone</td>
<td>other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anybody</td>
<td>everything</td>
<td>one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anyone</td>
<td>neither</td>
<td>somebody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anything</td>
<td>nobody</td>
<td>someone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>each</td>
<td>no one</td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>everybody</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reflexive**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>myself</td>
<td>ourselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yourself</td>
<td>yourselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>himself, herself, itself</td>
<td>themselves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Relative**

| who | whose | whom | which | that | when | where |

### Verbs

#### Linking Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>am</th>
<th>are</th>
<th>be</th>
<th>been</th>
<th>being</th>
<th>is</th>
<th>was</th>
<th>were</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Helping Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>am</th>
<th>are</th>
<th>is</th>
<th>was</th>
<th>were</th>
<th>be</th>
<th>being</th>
<th>been</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>has</td>
<td>have</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>does</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can</td>
<td>could</td>
<td>may</td>
<td>might</td>
<td>must</td>
<td>shall</td>
<td>should</td>
<td>will</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The verbs in this row may act as linking verbs (stand alone) or as helping verbs (with another verb).

### Verbals

#### Gerund

- verb acting as a noun *(Skiing offers John a sense of freedom.)*

#### Infinitive

- to + verb *(To exercise regularly promotes wellness.)*

#### Participle

- verb acting as an adjective *(Driving wildly, Daren sped down the road.)*

### Conjunctions

#### Coordinating

- FANBOYS – for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

#### Subordinating

- AAAWWWUBBIS – as, although, after, when, whenever, while, until, because, before, if, since

#### Coorelative

- both…and, not only…but also, either…or, neither…nor, not…but, whether…or

### Prepositions

Note – prepositional phrases always have an object (pronoun, noun) of the preposition *(e.g. Aboard the bus, we took our seats.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aboard</th>
<th>before</th>
<th>during</th>
<th>onto</th>
<th>underneath</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>about</td>
<td>behind</td>
<td>except</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>until</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>above</td>
<td>below</td>
<td>for</td>
<td>outside</td>
<td>unto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>across</td>
<td>beneath</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>over</td>
<td>up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after</td>
<td>beside</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>past</td>
<td>upon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>against</td>
<td>besides</td>
<td>inside</td>
<td>since</td>
<td>with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>along</td>
<td>between</td>
<td>into</td>
<td>through</td>
<td>within</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amid</td>
<td>but (except)</td>
<td>near</td>
<td>till</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around</td>
<td>by</td>
<td>of</td>
<td>to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as</td>
<td>concerning</td>
<td>off</td>
<td>toward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at</td>
<td>down</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>under</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Common Core State Standards

### ~ Conventions ~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Colors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second grade</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third grade</td>
<td>Red, Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Grade</td>
<td>Red, Green, Blue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nouns**
- Plural (orally by adding /s/ or /es/)
- Common, proper, possessive
- Noun ~ verb agreement
- Collective nouns (e.g. group)
- Irregular plural nouns
- Abstract nouns (e.g. childhood)

**Pronouns**
- Personal (I, we, you, he she, it, they), possessive (his, hers, my, theirs, ours, yours, mine), indefinite (some, somebody, anybody, nobody…)
- Reflexive pronouns (myself, ourselves…)
- Relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which, that)
- Pronoun ~ antecedent agreement

**Verbs**
- Tenses – past, present, future
- Irregular verbs (e.g. sat, hid, told)
- Subject ~ verb agreement

**Adjectives**
- Comparative
- Superlative
- Order according to conventional patterns (e.g. a small red bag instead of a red small bag)
### Adverbs
- Comparative (e.g. quicker, faster,...)
- Superlative (e.g. quickest, fastest, ...)

### Conjunctions
- Coordinating (FANBOYS - for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
- Subordinating (AAAWWWUBBIS – as, although, after, when, whenever, while, until, because, before, if, since)

### Determiners
- Articles (an, a, the)
- Demonstratives (this, that, these, those, none, neither)

### Prepositions
- Words
- Phrases

### Modal Auxillaries
- (e.g. can, may, must)

### Types of Sentences
- Declarative
- Interrogative
- Imperative
- Exclamatory
- Simple
- Complex
- Compound

### Spelling
- Spell simple words phonetically
- Spelling patterns and generalizations
- Conventional spelling for high-frequency words
- Suffixes added to base words
Punctuation
- Ending punctuation
- Dates
- Series of commas
- Greetings, closing of letters
- Addresses
- Quotation marks in dialogue
- Before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence
- Choose for effect
- Apostrophes
  - Contractions
  - Possessives

Capitalizations
- First word in a sentence
- Pronoun “I”
- Dates
- Names of people
- Holidays
- Product names
- Geographic names
- Appropriate words in a title

Vocabulary
- Relate words to their opposites (antonyms)
- Use affixes and inflections
- Shades of meaning among verbs (e.g. look, peek, glance, stare, glare, …)
- Adverb intensity (e.g. large, gigantic)
- Closely related adjectives and adverbs
- Degrees of mind (e.g. knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered)
- Distinguish literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g. take steps)
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Adages/Proverbs (two wrongs don’t make a right, a watched pot never boils)
- Synonyms
You don’t want to miss the first day of your new school, do you?

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg

What do you notice?

- This is an interrogative (question).
- The is a compound sentence.
- You is a pronoun and the subject of the first independent clause.
- Don’t is a contraction for “do not.”
- Do want is the verb phrase of the first independent clause.
- Not (n’t) is the adverb.
- A comma is used to separate the clauses in the sentence.
- You is the subject of the second clause and do is the verb (do you).
- The word “miss” can be a title for a woman who is not married, but in this case it means to “not attend.”
- This sentence is present tense.
- Of your new school is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

You don’t want to miss the last meeting of your club, do you?
She tunneled down to the end of the bed.

**What do you notice?**

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *She* is a pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- *Tunneled* is the past tense verb.
- The word “tunneled” is used to create a picture in the reader’s mind. The author is using imagery to help the reader connect the story to real-life experiences.
- *To the end and of the bed* are prepositional phrases.
- Articles/Adjectives - *the*
- Noun - *bed*
- Adverb - *down*

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

He climbed up to the top of the tower.
She fumbled into her clothes.

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *She* is a pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- Other pronoun - *her* (possessive pronoun)
- *Fumbled* is the past tense verb.
- The word “fumbled” is used to create a picture in the reader’s mind. This strong verb is used to help the reader understand that the character is not really alert and eager to get dressed.
- Prepositional phrase - *into her clothes*
- Noun - *clothes*

Possible Teacher Imitation

He fumbled into his football uniform.
Sarah’s hands were cold and clammy.

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Sarah’s is a possessive noun.
- Hands is the subject of the sentence.
- Were is the past tense linking verb.
- Adjectives - cold, clammy
- Conjunction - and
- The author has included two adjectives that describe Sarah’s hands in order to help the reader better understand the extent of Sarah's nervousness.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Sally’s head was hot and sweaty.
Mr. Hartwell handed Sarah a piece of toast and her lunchbox.

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Mr. Hartwell is the subject of the sentence.
- Mr. is a title so it is capitalized and there is a period at the end.
- Handed is the past tense verb.
- Conjunction - and
- Nouns - toast, lunchbox
- Possessive pronoun - her
- Sarah is a proper noun.
- Of toast is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Mrs. James tossed David an apple and his backpack.
“Maybe I can read the inside too!” Juno said to his dog, Sam.

Adapted from *Dear Juno* by Soyung Pak

What do you notice?

- This is an exclamatory quote.
- The quote is a simple sentence.
- *I* is a singular subjective pronoun and the subject of the quote.
- *Can read* is the verb phrase of the quote.
- What the character is saying is inside the quotation marks with the ending punctuation (exclamation mark) showing his excitement.
- A comma is used to separate the common noun “dog” from the proper noun “Sam” which is the dog’s name.
- *Juno* is a proper noun.
- The tag, *Juno said to his dog, Sam*, is a complete sentence.
- *To his dog* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

“Maybe I can color the outside too!” Pam said to her dog, Pepper.
“Juno, write a letter to your grandmother,” said Juno’s mom.

Adapted from Dear Juno by Soyung Pak

What do you notice?

- This is an imperative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Juno is a proper noun and the subject of the quote.
- Write is the present tense verb.
- This sentence is a direct quotation so what the character is saying is inside the quotation marks.
- A comma is used to separate the proper noun “Juno” (the one being addressed) from the command to write a letter.
- Juno’s is possessive to show that the mother belongs to Juno.
- To your grandmother is a prepositional phrase.
- Said Juno’s mom is the tag.

Possible Teacher Imitation

“John, clean your room,” said John’s mother.
“I’m writing!” shouted Juno.

Adapted from Dear Juno by Soyung Pak

What do you notice?

- This is an exclamatory quotation.
- This is a simple sentence.
- I is a singular pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- I’m is a contraction for I am
- Am writing is the present tense verb phrase.
- This sentence is a direct quote, so what the character is saying is inside the quotation marks with the exclamation mark to show excitement.
- The word “shouted” helps to further illustrate the speaker’s excitement.

Possible Teacher Imitation

“We’re painting!” screamed Rodney.
Juno, check the mail.

Adapted from Dear Juno by Soyung Pak

What do you notice?

- The sentence is an imperative sentence (command).
- This is a simple sentence.
- Juno is a proper noun and the direct address.
- You is the understood verb.
- Check is the verb.
- This sentence is present tense.
- A comma separates the proper noun (Juno) from the sentence to show that he is being addressed.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Sam, take the dog for a walk.
Mom, please bring me an envelope.

Adapted from Dear Juno by Soyung Pak

What do you notice?

- The sentence is an imperative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Mom is the direct address.
- You is the understood subject.
- Bring is the present tense verb.
- A comma separates Mom from the command to show that “mom” is being addressed directly.
- An is used in front of envelope because envelope begins with a vowel sound.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Sally, please put the paper in a trashcan.
Black bears are content munching on birdseed, chicken bones, or other food scraps.

Whose Habitat Is It? by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

• This is a declarative sentence.
• This is a simple sentence.
• Bears is the subject of the sentence.
• Are is the present tense verb.
• Commas are used to separate the listed items that black bears like to eat.
• Munching paints a picture using the reader’s visual and auditory senses and is more descriptive than the word “eating.”
• On birdseed, chicken bones, or other food scraps is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

River otters are pleased to slurp up oysters, insects, and crabs.
In Georgia, alligators have made a splash in neighborhood pools.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Alligators is a common plural noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Have made is the past tense verb phrase.
- The author chose to use imagery to convey the idea that alligators are in peoples' swimming pools by saying they have “made a splash.”
- In Georgia is a prepositional phrase acting as an opener so it is followed by a comma.
- Georgia is a proper noun.
- In neighborhood pools is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

In Melbourne, sandhill cranes have winged their way into neighborhood yards.
In Big Pine Key, a Florida island, deer eat flower beds.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Deer is a common noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Deer is an irregular plural noun.
- Eat is the present tense verb.
- In Big Pine Key is a prepositional phrase acting as an opener so it is followed by a comma.
- Florida is a proper noun.
- A Florida island, is an appositive because it renames Big Pine Key. Appositives always begin and end with commas.

Possible Teacher Imitation

In Key West, a Florida island, ducks eat bread crumbs.
Urban sprawl upsets the plants and animals that live in an area.

Whose Habitat Is It? by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Sprawl is a common noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Urban is an adjective that describes sprawl.
- Upsets is the present tense verb.
- And is a coordinating conjunction joining plants and animals.
- An is an article and is used because the word that follows it begins with a vowel sound (area).

Possible Teacher Imitation

Construction workers build schools and houses in a town.
Scientists say we can protect animals by changing the way we build new communities.

*Whose Habitat Is It? by Time for Kids*

**What do you notice?**

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence that has an independent clause, *scientists say,* and two dependent clauses, *(that) we can protect animals by changing the way,* *(that) we build communities.*
- *Scientists* is a common noun and the subject of the independent clause.
- *Say* is the present tense verb of the independent clause.
- This sentence is an indirect quote telling what scientists say without quoting their exact words.
- The word *we* is used to show that everyone should be concerned and involved in creating communities that are safe for animals.
- *By changing* is a prepositional phrase.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

Teachers say we can learn to write by studying mentor texts.
A fierce wind howls.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Wind is a common singular noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Howls is the present tense verb (predicate) and agrees with the singular noun.
- Fierce is an adjective and describes the noun.
- The adjective fierce matches the verb howls in intensity. For example, it would not be correct to say a soft wind howls.
- A is an article and is used because the word that follows it begins with a consonant sound (fierce).

Possible Teacher Imitation

The friendly kitten purrs.
Because it’s winter in Antarctica, water near the shore is frozen for many miles.

Penguin Chick by Betty Tatham

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence because it contains a dependent clause and an independent clause.
- Water is a common noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Is is the present tense verb in the independent clause (water near the shore is frozen for many miles).
- It’s is a contraction for “it is.”
- Antarctica is a proper noun so it is capitalized.
- Because it’s winter in Antarctica, is a dependent clause beginning with a subordinating conjunction because.
- In Antarctica, near the shore, and for many miles are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Because it’s summer in Florida, the water at the beach is warm every day.
She dives into the water to hunt for fish, squid, and tiny shrimplike creatures called krill.

Penguin Chick by Betty Tatham

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *She* is a pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- *Dives into the water to hunt for fish, squid, and tiny shrimplike creatures called krill* is the complete predicate (*dives* is the present tense verb).
- Commas are used to separate the items in the series.
- The author has included additional information about krill (*tiny shrimplike creatures*) to help the reader understand what the penguin eats.
- *Into the water* and *for fish* are prepositional phrases.
- *To hunt* is an infinitive.

Possible Teacher Imitation

He looks in the garden to find butterflies, worms, and tiny shelled animals called snails.
**They stand close together for warmth.**

*Penguin Chick* by Betty Tatham

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**What do you notice?**

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *They* is a (plural) pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- *Stand close together for warmth* is the complete predicate (*stand* is the present tense verb).
- *For warmth* is a prepositional phrase.

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**Possible Teacher Imitation**

We sit far apart to have room to wiggle.
He catches a fish with his beak and swallows it headfirst.

Penguin Chick by Betty Tatham

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence with a compound present tense predicate (verb) catches and swallows.
- He is a pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- Catches a fish with his beak and swallows it headfirst is the complete predicate.
- With his beak is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She grabs a snake in her talons and carries it off to her nest.
It was absolutely no trouble, and it was a very good listener.

Adapted from *The Perfect Pet* by Margie Palatini

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence which combines two ideas: *it was absolutely no trouble* and *it was a good listener*.
- *And* is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- *It* is a pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- *Was* is the past tense verb in both clauses of the sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

I was reading quietly, and I was eating a snack.
He wasn’t too big, and he most definitely was not too loud.

Adapted from The Perfect Pet by Margie Palatini

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence which combines two ideas: he wasn’t too big and he most definitely wasn’t too loud.
- And is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- He is a pronoun and the subject of both independent clauses.
- Was is the past tense verb in both independent clauses of the sentence.
- The author separated the contraction “wasn’t” in the second clause of the sentence to add emphasis to the idea. “Most definitely” also adds emphasis and shows that the character is reacting to objections that have previously been given by her parents.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She wasn’t too small and she certainly was not too silly.
He couldn’t jump on the furniture, and he didn’t shed.

Adapted from The Perfect Pet by Margie Palatini

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence which combines two ideas: he couldn’t jump on the furniture and he couldn’t shed.
- And is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- He is a pronoun and the subject of both independent clauses.
- Could jump is the past tense verb in the first clause and did shed is the past tense verb in the second clause of the sentence.
- Couldn’t jump on the furniture and didn’t shed are the complete predicates.
- Not is the adverb.
- On the furniture is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She wouldn’t yell in the classroom, and she didn’t throw things.
Doug did not give Elizabeth a pony ride, and she did not take him for a walk.

Adapted from The Perfect Pet by Margie Palatini

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence (contains two independent clauses) which combines two ideas: Doug did not give Elizabeth a pony ride and she did not take him for a walk.
- And is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- Doug is the subject of the first independent clause, and she (subjective pronoun) is the subject of the second independent clause of the sentence.
- Did give is the verb phrase in the first independent clause and did take is the verb phrase in the second independent clause.
- Not is an adverb.
- Did not give Elizabeth a pony ride and did not take him for a walk are the complete predicates.
- These clauses can be joined to make one sentence because they share the concept of what each character did not do.
- Proper nouns - Doug, Elizabeth
- For a walk is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Spot did not give Debbie a tail wag hello, and she did not play fetch with him.
Elizabeth smiled, and she tossed Doug a piece of popcorn.

Adapted from *The Perfect Pet* by Margie Palatini

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence (contains two independent clauses) which combines two ideas: *Elizabeth smiled* and *she tossed Doug a piece of popcorn*.
- *And* is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- *Elizabeth* is the subject of the first independent clause, and *she* (subjective pronoun) is the subject of the second independent clause.
- *Smiled* is the past tense verb in the first independent clause and *tossed* is the past tense verb in the second independent clause.
- These clauses can be joined to make one sentence because they are both actions of Elizabeth.
- Proper nouns - *Doug, Elizabeth*
- *Of popcorn* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Trevor grinned, and he threw Spot a small dog bone.
He tried to follow the instructions his friends were giving him, but he couldn’t run downhill and uphill at the same time.

Adapted from Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White from page 22

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound complex sentence (contains two independent clauses and a dependent clause).
- But is the coordinating conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- He (singular subjective pronoun) is the subject of the first and second independent clause (He tried to follow the instructions, but he couldn’t run downhill and uphill at the same time) and friends is the subject of the dependent clause.
- The dependent clause is (that) his friends were giving him (adjective clause).
- Tried is the verb in the first independent clause, and could run is the verb phrase in the second independent clause and were giving is the verb phrase of the dependent clause.
- Not is an adverb.
- These clauses can be joined to make one sentence because they are both actions of the character.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She tried to catch the muffin her brother threw at her, but she couldn’t hold her glass of milk and catch at the same time.
Templeton was a crafty rat, and he had things pretty much his own way.

Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White
from page 30

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence (contains two independent clauses) which combines two ideas: Templeton was a crafty rat, he had things pretty much his own way.
- And is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- Templeton is the subject of the first independent clause and was is the linking verb.
- He is the subject of the second independent clause and had is the verb.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She was a brilliant student, and she had studied pretty much her own way.
I am not entirely happy about my diet of flies and bugs, but it’s the way I’m made.

Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White
from page 39

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound complex sentence (contains two independent clauses and a dependent clause).
- But is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- I (singular subjective pronoun) is the subject of the first independent clause (I am entirely happy about my diet of flies and bugs,) and it (singular objective pronoun) is the subject of the second independent clause (but it’s the way).
- Am is the verb in the first independent clause, and is is the verb in the second independent clause.
- The dependent clause is (that) I’m made.
- The subject of the dependent clause is I and the verb is is (’s).
- Am not entirely happy about my diet of flies and bugs, and is the way I’m made are the complete predicates.
- These clauses can be joined to make one sentence because the second independent clause extends the thought of the first.
- About my diet and of flies and bugs are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

I am not entirely happy about my diet of apples and bananas, but it’s the way I’m eating.
She had eight legs, and she was waving one of them at Wilbur in friendly greeting.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence (contains two independent clauses) which combines two ideas: She had eight legs and she was waving one of them at Wilbur in friendly greeting.
- And is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- She (singular subjective pronoun) is the subject of both clauses.
- Had is the past tense verb in the first independent clause, and was waving is the past tense verb in the second independent clause.
- Had eight legs and was waving one of them at Wilbur in friendly greeting are the complete predicates.
- These clauses can be joined to make one sentence because the second clause tells what she was doing with the eight legs.
- Prepositional phrases – of them, at Wilbur, in friendly greeting

Possible Teacher Imitation

He had two feet, and he was pounding the pavement with them in determination.
I know a good thing when I see it, and my web is a good thing.

Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White
from page 61

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound complex sentence which combines two ideas: I know a good thing when I see it and my web is a good thing.
- I know a good thing and my web is a good thing are independent clauses.
- When I see it is a dependent clause starting with a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- And is the conjunction used to join the ideas.
- A comma is used before the conjunction.
- I (singular subjective pronoun) is the subject of the first independent clause, and web is the subject of the second independent clause.
- Know is the present tense verb in the first independent clause, and is is the present tense verb in the second independent clause of the sentence.
- Know a good thing and is a good thing are the complete predicates.
- These clauses can be joined to make one sentence because the first two clauses explain how the character is able to say the web is good.
- The author has used repetition effectively (good thing is repeated).

Possible Teacher Imitation

I know a good book when I read one, and my book is good.
One day in late spring Little Red Ant decided to find out.

*The Strongest One* by Joseph Bruchac

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is *Little Red Ant*.
- *Little Red Ant* is a proper noun.
- The verb is *decided*.
- Preposition - *in*
- Prepositional phrases - *in late spring,*
- *To find* is the infinitive (to + verb).
- This is a simple declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

One afternoon in early fall Little Billy decided to play football.
When Sun shines on me, I melt away.

When mom watches me, I run faster.

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is I.
- In this sentence, Sun is a proper noun because it is used as a name.
- The present tense verb is melt.
- Away is an adverb.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- When is a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- When Sun shines on me is a subordinate clause (a subordinate clause is always followed by a comma).
- This is a complex sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When mom watches me, I run faster.
Mouse comes and gnaws holes in me.

The Strongest One by Joseph Bruchac

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is Mouse
- In this sentence, Mouse is a proper noun.
- The compound present tense verbs are comes and gnaws.
- Holes is a common noun.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- Prepositional phrase - in me
- Me is a personal pronoun.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Hamster comes and nibbles holes in the cheese.
So Little Red Ant went back home and spoke to the ant people.

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is the proper noun Little Red Ant.
- The compound past tense verbs are went and spoke.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- Home and people are common nouns.
- Back is an adverb.
- Preposition - to
- Prepositional phrase - to the ant people
- The is an article adjective.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

So Big Blue Bug scampered back home and complained to the bug people.
I have learned that everything is stronger than something else.

The Strongest One by Joseph Bruchac

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence.
- The subject of the independent clause is the personal pronoun I (I have learned).
- The verb phrase of the independent clause is have learned.
- That is a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and is the beginning of the first dependent clause (that everything is stronger).
- The other dependent phrase is than something else (is).
- It’s a declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She has learned that nothing is tastier than creamy ice cream.
After walking for many days, a wolf wandered into a quiet little town.

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is *wolf*.
- *Wolf* is a singular noun.
- The verb is *wandered*.
- *A* is an article adjective.
- Prepositional phrases – *after walking, for many days, into a quiet little town*
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

After reading for many hours, Sarah ambled into the yard to play.
As he peered over the farm fence, he saw a pig, a duck, and a cow reading in the sun.

Wolf by Becky Bloom

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is *he*.
- *He* is a personal pronoun.
- The verb is *saw*.
- *A* is an article adjective.
- *Pig, duck, and cow* are singular common nouns.
- *As* is a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- *As he peered over the farm fence* is a subordinate dependent clause (*a subordinate clause is always followed by a comma when it begins a sentence*).
- Prepositional phrases—over the fence, in the sun
- This is a complex sentence with a dependent clause, *as he peered over the farm fence*, and a dependent clause, *he saw a pig, a duck, and a cow reading in the sun*.

Possible Teacher Imitation

As she peeked around the corner, she spied a boy, a girl, and an old man relaxing in the sandwich shop.
The wolf had never seen animals read before.

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is wolf.
- The past tense verb is had seen.
- Never is an adverb.
- The is an article adjective.
- Animals is a plural common noun.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The girl had always seen ants creeping in the grass.
The wolf tucked his tail between his legs and slunk away.

Wolf by Becky Bloom

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is wolf.
- The compound verbs are tucked and slunk.
- His is a singular possessive pronoun.
- The is an article adjective.
- Tail is a singular common noun.
- Legs is a plural common noun.
- Between his legs is a prepositional phrase.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The rabbit wriggled his pink little nose and hopped away.
He counted the little money he had, went to the bookshop, and bought a splendid new storybook.

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence. The independent clause is *He counted the money, went to the bookshop, and bought a splendid new storybook*. The dependent clause is *(that) he had*.
- The subject of the independent clause is the singular subjective pronoun *He*. The subject of the dependent clause is *he*.
- The compound past tense verbs of the independent clause are *counted, went,* and *bought* and the verb of the dependent clause is *had*.
- *Bookshop* and *storybook* are singular common nouns and compound words.
- *Money* is an irregular plural noun.
- *Little, splendid* and *new* are adjectives.
- Prepositional phrase - *to the bookshop*
- The sentence includes commas in a series.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She scrounged around for the little money she had, skipped to the candy store, and bought a yummy candy bar.
Modern inventions make our everyday lives easier, but many of these inventions use up natural resources.

What’s in Store for the Future by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- Two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (but) is a compound sentence.
- Inventions is the subject of the first independent clause, modern inventions make our everyday lives easier, and the verb is make.
- Many is the subject of the second independent clause, many of these inventions use up natural resources, and the verb is use.
- Lives is an irregular noun.
- Prepositional phrase – of these inventions
- Inventions and resources are plural common nouns.
- Modern and natural are adjectives.
- It’s a declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Technological inventions make our lives so much easier, but many of these technologies are difficult to understand when first used.
More and more people will be working in their homes using computers and satellite receivers.

What’s in Store for the Future by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- People is an irregular plural noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Will be working is the verb phrase.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.
- Using computers and satellite receivers is a participial phrase.
- Preposition - in
- Prepositional phrase - in their homes
- Computers and receivers are plural common nouns.
- Satellite is an adjective.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Fewer and fewer students will be using pencil and paper to complete their work.
We'll grow fruits, grains, and vegetables close to home, either in our gardens or on nearby organic farms.

What’s in Store for the Future by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

• We is the subject of the sentence and a plural subjective pronoun.
• Will (’ll) is the verb of the sentence.
• Fruits, grains, and vegetables are plural common nouns.
• Prepositions - to, in, on
• Prepositional phrase - to home, in our gardens, on nearby organic farms
• Either…or are correlative conjunctions.
• The sentence contains commas in a series.
• It’s a declarative sentence.
• This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She’ll grow cabbage, carrots, and cauliflower in the backyard, either in a small garden or in large pots.
Energy from windmills and solar panels is available now to some homeowners.

What’s in Store for the Future by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- *Energy* is the subject of the sentence and a common noun.
- *is* is the verb in the sentence.
- Prepositions - *from, to*
- Prepositional phrases- *from windmills and solar panels, to some homeowners*
- *Solar* and *some* are adjectives.
- *Windmills* and *homeowners* are compound words.
- This is a declarative, simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Information from educational TV shows and search engines is abundant to all students.
Experts believe that changing the way we live in the future may actually improve our planet’s health.

What’s in Store for the Future by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- *Experts* is the subject of the sentence and a plural common noun.
- *Believe* is the verb in the sentence.
- *That changing the way we live in the future may actually improve our planet’s health* is a dependent clause.
- The independent clause is *Experts believe*.
- *Actually* is an adverb.
- *Planet’s* is a possessive noun acting as an adjective.
- *Health* is a common noun.
- Complex sentence - independent clause, dependent clause
- *May* is a modal auxiliary.
- *In the future* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Teachers believe that changing the way we approach writing may improve students’ writing scores.
**It’s called Earth’s satellite.**

_The Planets in Our Solar System_ by Franklyn M. Branley

**What do you notice?**

- *It* is the subject of the sentence and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *It’s* is a contraction for *it* is.
- *Is(‘s)* is the verb in the sentence.
- *Earth’s* is a proper possessive noun acting as an adjective.
- *Satellite* is a common noun.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

It’s named Plato’s Closet.
The comet’s tail of gasses may be millions of miles long.

Adapted from *The Planets in Our Solar System* by Franklyn M. Branley

What do you notice?

- *Tail* is the subject of the sentence and a singular common noun.
- *May be* is the verb phrase in the sentence.
- *Comet’s* is a common possessive noun acting as an adjective.
- *Millions* is a common noun.
- Preposition - of
- Prepositional phrases - *of gasses, of miles long*
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The horse’s tail of coarse hair may be a couple of feet long.
The asteroid’s big chunks of rocks go around the sun.

Adapted from *The Planets in Our Solar System* by Franklyn M. Branley

What do you notice?

- *Chunks* is the subject of the sentence and a common noun.
- *Go* is the verb in the sentence.
- *Asteroid’s* is a common possessive noun acting as an adjective.
- *Big* is an adjective.
- Prepositions - *of, around*
- Prepositional phrase - *of rocks, around the sun*
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence

Possible Teacher Imitation

The flower’s big beautiful petals fall to the ground.
The solar system’s main parts are the sun and the eight planets.

Adapted from The Planets in Our Solar System by Franklyn M. Branley

What do you notice?

- *Parts* is the subject of the sentence and a common noun.
- *Are* is the present tense verb in the sentence.
- *Solar system’s* is a common possessive noun acting as an adjective.
- *Sun and planets* are common nouns.
- *Main and eight* are adjectives
- *The* is an article adjective.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The school’s main areas are the classrooms, office, cafeteria, playground, and bathrooms.
The solar system’s most important planet to you is Earth because it’s the planet where we live.

Adapted from The Planets in Our Solar System by Franklyn M. Branley

What do you notice?

- *Planet* is the subject of the sentence and a common noun.
- *Is* is the verb in the sentence.
- *System’s* is a singular possessive noun.
- *The* is an article adjective.
- Preposition - *to*
- Prepositional phrase - *to you*
- *Solar* and *important* are adjectives.
- *Most* is an adverb.
- *Because* is a subordinating conjunction and the subordinate clause is *because it’s the planet*.
- Another subordinate clause is *where we live*.
- Complex sentence - an independent clause (*The solar system’s most important planet to you is Earth*) and two dependent clauses (*because it’s the planet* and *where we live*).

Possible Teacher Imitation

The playground’s most important swing to you is the empty one because it’s the one you can grab and swing on.
I was the best grocery-list writer in the world and a huge help to my mother.

*Author A True Story* by Helen Lester

What do you notice?

- *I* is the subject of the sentence and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Was* is the verb in the sentence.
- *Grocery-list* is a hyphenated word and an adjective that acts as one word.
- *Writer* is a common noun.
- *Best* is a superlative adjective.
- *The* and *a* are article adjectives.
- Prepositions - *in, to*
- Prepositional phrases – *in the world, to my mother*
- *And* is a coordinating conjunction.
- *My* is a possessive pronoun.
- *Mother* is not capitalized because it is not used as a name.
- Simple sentence

Possible Teacher Imitation

I was the worst blueberry-muffin maker in the whole world and a huge hindrance to my grandmother.
Then I went to school and learned to make what they called “real letters.”

Author A True Story by Helen Lester

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence. The independent clause is Then I went to school and learned to make. The dependent clause is what they called “real letters.”
- I is the subject of the independent clause and a singular subjective pronoun.
- Went and learned is the compound verb in the independent clause.
- The subject of the dependent clause is they and the verb is called.
- The and a are article adjectives.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.
- Real letters is set off with quotes by the author because the words are used in a special sense.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- To school is a prepositional phrase.
- To make is an infinitive.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Then I went to kindergarten and learned to make what they called “real sentences.”
I also learned that teaching was fun and that children have fantastic imaginations.

Author A True Story by Helen Lester

What do you notice?

- Complex sentence - independent clause (I also learned) and two dependent clauses (that teaching was fun, that children have fantastic imaginations).
- Complex sentence - independent clause (I also learned) and two dependent clauses (that teaching was fun, that children have fantastic imaginations).
- I is the subject of the independent clause and a singular subjective pronoun.
- Learned is the verb in the independent clause.
- The subject of the dependent clause, that teaching was fun is teaching and the verb is was.
- The subject of the dependent clause, that children have fantastic imaginations is children and the verb is have.
- The author used the coordinating conjunction and to join the two dependent clauses (that teaching was fun, that children have fantastic imaginations).
- Teaching and children are common nouns.
- Fantastic is an adjective.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.

Possible Teacher Imitation

I also learned that writing is fun and that teachers have amazing ideas that help you.
Practice must have helped each story get a little better, for on my seventh try no book came back.

Author A True Story by Helen Lester

What do you notice?

- The subject of the first independent clause is practice and the verb is have helped; the subject of the second independent clause is book and the verb is came.
- Must is a modal auxiliary.
- Story is a common noun.
- Each is a singular indefinite pronoun.
- For is a coordinating conjunction that connects two independent clauses.
- This is a compound sentence.
- On my seventh try is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Practice must have helped each sentence get a little better, for on my eighth try my teacher said that my sentence was splendid.
But usually I work with an illustrator who has been to art school.

Adapted from Author A True Story by Helen Lester

What do you notice?

- Complex sentence - an independent clause (*But usually I work with an illustrator*) and a dependant clause (*who has been to art school*)
- *I* is the subject of the independent clause and a subjective singular pronoun.
- *Work* is the verb in the independent clause.
- *Who* is the subject of the dependent clause. *Has been* is the verb phrase in the dependent clause.
- *Who has been to art school* is an adjective clause modifying *illustrator*.
- *Illustrator* is a common noun.
- *Usually* is an adverb
- *With an illustrator and to art school* are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

But usually I work with a baker who has been to cooking school.
He’s the most untrustworthy mouse on the block!

Surf’s Up, Geronimo by Geronimo Stilton
from page 4

What do you notice?

- *He* is the subject of the sentence.
- *He’s* is a contraction for he is and *he* is a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Is (‘s)* is the verb in the sentence.
- Preposition-*on*
- Prepositional phrase - *on the block*
- *Most* is a superlative adjective.
- *Mouse* is a common noun.
- *Untrustworthy* is an adjective.
- This is an exclamatory sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She’s the most honest kid in the class.
That mouse can really get under my fur.

Surf’s Up, Geronimo by Geronimo Stilton
from page 4

What do you notice?

- Mouse is the subject of the sentence.
- Can get is the verb in the sentence.
- My is a singular possessive pronoun.
- That is a demonstrative pronoun.
- Preposition - under
- Prepositional phrase- under my fur
- Really is an adverb.
- Can really get under my fur is an idiom.
- This is a declarative simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

That neighbor can really get under my skin.
I watched in horror as he launched himself onto the control stick.

Surf’s Up, Geronimo by Geronimo Stilton
from page 30

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence with an independent clause, *I watched in horror,* and a dependent clause, *as he launched himself onto the control stick.*
- *I* is the subject of the independent clause and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Watched* is the verb in the independent clause.
- The subject of the dependent clause, *as he launched himself onto the control stick,* is *he* and the verb is *launched.*
- *As* is a subordinating conjunction.
- *The* is an article adjective.
- Prepositions-*in, onto*
- Prepositional phrase-*in horror, onto the control stick*
- *Himself* is a reflexive pronoun.

Possible Teacher Imitation

I watched in awe as she did a double flip off the diving board.
I felt like my cousin Squinty before he got glasses.

*Surf's Up, Geronimo* by Geronimo Stilton
from page 47

**What do you notice?**

- This is a complex sentence. The independent clause is *I felt like my cousin Squinty* and the dependent clause is *before he got glasses.*
- *I* is the subject of the independent clause and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Felt* is the verb in the independent clause.
- The subject of the dependent clause is *he* and the verb is *got.*
- *Cousin* is a common noun and *Squinty* is a proper noun.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

I felt like my brother Shorty before he had his growing spurt.
Giant cockroaches were everywhere, on the floor, on the walls, and even on the ceiling.

Adapted from Surf’s Up, Geronimo by Geronimo Stilton from page 64

What do you notice?

- This is a simple sentence.
- The subject of the sentence is the common noun cockroaches.
- Were is the verb in the sentence.
- Preposition - on
- Prepositional phrases- on the floor, on the walls, on the ceiling
- Giant is an adjective.
- Everywhere is an adverb.
- The sentence includes commas in a series to separate the different places cockroaches are found.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Colorful sticky notes were everywhere, on the computer, on the desk, and even on the walls.
When the monks reached the foot of the mountain, the villagers disappeared into their houses.

Stone Soup by Jon J. Muth

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- The past tense verbs are reached and disappeared.
- When is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and begins the dependent clause, when the monks reached the foot of the mountains.
- Villagers is the subject of the independent clause, the villagers disappeared into their houses and disappeared is the action verb.
- Of the mountain and into their houses are prepositional phrases.
- A comma separates clauses.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When the soldiers reached the city limits, the townspeople vanished into their houses.
They knocked on a second door, and the same thing happened.

Stone Soup by Jon J. Muth

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- They is a pronoun and the subject of the first independent clause and knocked is the action verb.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.
- A comma separates the two independent clauses and comes before the coordinating conjunction.
- Thing is the subject of the second independent clause and happened is the verb.
- Same is an adjective describing the thing.
- Knocked and happened are past tense verbs.

Possible Teacher Imitation

They opened the third door, and the identical thing occurred.
The little girl helped the monks look around the courtyard until they found just the right one.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This sentence is complex.
- Girl is the subject of the independent clause, The little girl helped the monks look around the courtyard, helped is the past tense verb.
- Around the courtyard is a prepositional phrase.
- Little is an adjective describing the girl.
- Until is the subordinating conjunction (AAAAWWWUBBIS).
- Until they found just the right one is a dependent clause.
- They is the subject of the dependent clause and the verb is found.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The tiny boy helped the neighbor look around the backyard until they found the perfect one.
He returned in a moment with five big onions, and he dropped them into the bubbling soup.

Stone Soup by Jon J. Muth

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- *He* is a singular subjective pronoun and the subject of the first and second independent clauses.
- *Returned* is the past tense action verb in the first independent clause, *He returned in a moment with five big onions*.
- *Dropped* is the past tense action verb in the second clause, *he dropped them into the bubbling soup*.
- A comma separates the two independent clauses and comes before the coordinating conjunction *and*.
- *In a moment, with five big onions and into the bubbling soup* are prepositional phrases.
- *Five and big* are adjectives describing the *onions*.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She returned five minutes later with six bunches of carrots, and she added them to the simmering soup.
Then they unlocked their doors and took the monks into their homes and gave them very comfortable places to sleep.

*Stone Soup* by Jon J. Muth

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *They* is a plural pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- The compound past tense action verbs are *unlocked*, *took*, and *gave*.
- *And* is a coordinating conjunction and is used purposefully by the author to connect the list of things *they* did.
- *Into their homes* is a prepositional phrase.
- *To sleep* is an infinitive.
- *Comfortable* is an adjective describing the *places to sleep*.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Then they opened their homes and took the orphans into their houses and gave them a delicious dinner to eat.
“When the number one is placed beside another number,” he said, “the number increases.”

Adapted from One Riddle, One Answer by Lauren Thompson

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- *When* is the subordinating conjunction (AAAAWWWUBBIS).
- *Beside another number* is a prepositional phrase.
- A comma and tag separate the dependent clause, *When the number one is placed beside another number*, from the independent clause, *the number increases*.
- *One* is the subject of the independent clause.
- *Increases* is the present tense verb.
- Quotation marks are used with the ending punctuation inside them.

Possible Teacher Imitation

“When the number zero is placed at the end of another number,” she said, “the number increases.”
When the sun is high above us, even the greatest man seems small, as he has only a small shadow.

One Riddle, One Answer by Lauren Thompson

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- *When* and *as* are subordinating conjunctions (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- *When the sun is high above us* and *as he has only a small shadow* are the dependent clauses. The subject of the first dependent clause is *sun* and the verb is *is*. The subject of the second dependent clause is *he* and the present tense verb is *has*.
- A comma separates the dependant clauses from the independent clause.
- *Man* is the subject of the independent clause.
- *Seems* is the present tense verb of the independent clause.
- *High, greatest, and small* are adjectives.
- *Above us* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When the sun is high above us, even the largest person seems tiny, as he has only a tiny shadow.
Aziza puts plenty of clues in her challenging riddles.

Adapted from *One Riddle, One Answer* by Lauren Thompson

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *Aziza* is the subject of the sentence.
- *Puts* is the present tense verb.
- *Challenging* is an adjective describing the type of riddles.
- *In her challenging riddles* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Mrs. Ninzer puts plenty of problems in her tricky tests.
“A sword!” he cries, displaying his gleaming saber.

Adapted from One Riddle, One Answer by Lauren Thompson

What do you notice?

- This is an exclamatory quote
- It is a simple sentence.
- A comma separates the person speaking from the participial phrase, displaying his gleaming saber.
- He is a pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- Cries is a verb and he cries acts as a tag.
- Gleaming is an adjective describing the saber.
- Quotation marks are used.
- The exclamation mark is inside the quotation marks.
- An exclamation mark was used to indicate astonishment, making the quote exclamatory.

Possible Teacher Imitation

“A quarter,” she chuckles, displaying her shining coin.
The riddle speaks of the ways of the world, and the answer, therefore, is money.

One Riddle, One Answer by Lauren Thompson

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- The sentence is in present tense.
- Commas are used to separate the two independent clauses, The riddle speaks of the ways of the world and the answer, therefore, is money.
- Therefore is a conjunctive adverb.
- Riddle is the subject of the first independent clause.
- Speaks is the present tense verb of the first independent clause.
- Answer is the subject of the second independent clause.
- Is is the present tense verb of the second independent clause.
- Of the ways and of the world are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The riddle speaks of the most important thing, and the answer, therefore, is love.
Jim Winder divided part of his land into small pastures.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Jim Winder is a proper noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Divided is the past tense verb.
- His is a possessive pronoun.
- Small is an adjective describing pastures.
- Into small pastures is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Sam Torkle divided part of his yard into small gardens.
Southwestern willow flycatchers had nowhere to lay their eggs and protect them, so the students planted 50 cottonwood trees.

Saving the Sand Dunes by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- The sentence is a compound sentence.
- *Flycatchers* is the subject of the first independent clause, *southwestern willow flycatchers had nowhere to lay their eggs and protect them.*
- *Had* is the past tense verb of the first independent clause.
- A comma is used to separate the independent clauses in the sentence.
- *So* is a coordinating conjunction.
- *Students* is the subject of the second independent clause and *planted* is the past tense verb.
- *To lay their eggs and protect them* is an infinitive phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Mountain bluebirds had nowhere to lay their eggs once so many trees had been cut down, so the students built birdhouses.
The mighty winds whirled; waves crashed and pounded the beach.

Adapted from Saving the Sand Dunes by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- The sentence is a compound sentence containing two independent clauses.
- Winds is the subject of the first clause and whirled is the verb.
- Mighty is an adjective describing the winds.
- A semi-colon is used to separate the clauses in the sentence.
- Waves is the subject of the second clause.
- Crashed and pounded is the compound past tense verb in the second independent clause.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The strong winds howled; trees swayed and snapped in half.
Since it worked so well, the following year’s fourth-grade class decided to continue the project.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- The sentence is a complex sentence.
- *Since* is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- *Since it worked so well* is a dependent clause. The subject of the dependent clause is *it* and the past tense verb is *worked*.
- A comma separates the dependent clause from the independent clause, *the following year’s fourth-grade class decided to continue the project*.
- *Class* is the subject of the independent clause and *decided* is the past tense verb.
- *Fourth-grade* contains a hyphen because it acts as one word.
- *To continue* is an infinitive.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Since it worked so well, the next year’s third-grade class decided to begin a similar project.
Because the kids buried only the lower half of each tree in the sand, the upper half acted as a sand catcher.

Saving the Sand Dunes by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- *Because* is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- *Because the kids buried only the lower half of each tree in the sand* is a dependent clause. The subject of the dependent clause is *kids* and the past tense verb is *burned*.
- *Only* is an adverb describing how the tree was *buried*.
- A comma separates the dependant clause from the independent clause *the upper half acted as a sand catcher*.
- *Half* is the subject of the independent clause and *acted* is the past tense verb.
- *Sand* is an adjective describing the type of *catcher*.
- *Of each tree, in the sand, and as a sand catcher* are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Because the children covered only the lower half of the tree in the soil, the upper half acted as shade.
Everyone liked the train, even Sean.

The Jones Family Express by Javaka Steptoe

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- *Everyone* is the subject of the independent clause, *Everyone liked the train*.
- *Everyone* is a singular indefinite pronoun.
- *Liked* is the past tense verb in the first independent clause.
- *Even Sean* is an independent clause with *liked it* acting as an understood ellipses. *Even Sean (liked it)*, is the independent clause. The subject of this independent clause is *Sean* and the past tense verb is *liked*.
- *The* is an article adjective.
- *Train* is a common noun.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Everyone will like the picture collage, even Granny.
Uncle Charles started rummaging around his apartment, looking for things that might be useful.

The Jones Family Express by Javaka Steptoe

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence with an independent clause, Uncle Charles started rummaging around his apartment, looking for things and a dependent clause, that might be useful.
- That is a relative pronoun that refers to things.
- Uncle Charles is a proper noun and the subject of the independent clause.
- Started is the past tense verb.
- A comma separates the independent clause from the participial phrase, looking for things that might be useful.
- Around his apartment and for things are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Aunt Shelly will start looking around her craft closet, looking for things we could use to make a gift for Dad.
When we got back to my block, everyone was so excited to see Aunt Carolyn that they didn’t ask where I had been.

The Jones Family Express by Javaka Steptoe

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- *When* is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWUBBIS).
- *When we got back to my block* is a dependent clause /subordinate clause.
- A comma separates the dependent clause from the independent clause, *everyone was so excited to see Aunt Carolyn*.
- *That they didn’t ask where I had been* is another dependent clause.
- *Everyone* is the subject of the independent clause.
- *Was* is the past tense verb.
- *We* is the subject of the dependent clause and the past tense verb is *got*.
- *Aunt Carolyn* is a proper noun and must be capitalized.
- *To see* is an infinitive.
- *To my block* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When I get back to my house, everyone will be so excited to see our lost dog that they won’t ask where I have been.
Instead of answering them, Aunt Carolyn held up the train.

The Jones Family Express by Javaka Steptoe

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Aunt Carolyn is a proper noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Held is the past tense verb.
- Instead of answering them is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Instead of waiting, my brother Joe will dash to the front of the line.
Uncle Charles bought ice cream for everybody with my ten dollars.

Adapted from The Jones Family Express by Javaka Steptoe

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Uncle Charles is the subject of the sentence and bought is the past tense verb.
- Ice cream is a common noun.
- For everybody and with my ten dollars are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Uncle Dean brought snacks for everyone from his house.
This picture shows where two illustrators live and work.

What Do Illustrator’s Do? by Eileen Christelow

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence. The independent clause is This picture shows. The dependent clause is where two illustrators live and work.
- Picture is the subject of the independent clause.
- Shows is the present tense action verb of the independent clause.
- The subject of the dependent clause is illustrators and the compound present tense verb is live and work.
- The coordinating conjunction and is used to join the words explaining what two illustrators do.
- Where is a relative pronoun.

Possible Teacher Imitation

This painting shows where two firefighters live and work.
They can draw different kinds of lines and textures.

Adapted from What Do Illustrator’s Do? by Eileen Christelow

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- They is a plural pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- Can draw is the verb phrase.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.
- Of lines and textures is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

They can add color using different kinds of paints.
A plan shows which pictures go on which pages.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- *Plan* is the subject of the independent clause, *A plan shows*.
- *Shows* is the verb in the independent clause.
- The subject of the dependent clause, *which pictures go on which pages*, is *pictures* and the verb is *go*.
- *On which pages* is the prepositional phrase.
- *Which* is a relative pronoun.

Possible Teacher Imitation

A graphic organizer shows which parts of the book go on which pages.
As they are sketching, illustrators need to decide how things will look: the characters, their clothes, the setting.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence with two dependent clauses, As they are sketching, is the first dependent clause, then an independent clause, illustrators need to decide, then a final dependent clause, how things will look: the characters, their clothes, the setting.
- As is a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWWUBBIS) that begins the first dependent clause. The subject of this clause is they and the verb phrase is are sketching.
- The subject of the independent clause, illustrators need to decide, is illustrators and the verb is need.
- The subject of the last dependent clause, how things will look: the characters, their clothes, the setting, is things and the verb is will look.
- There is a colon before a list.
- Commas in a series are used to separate the list of things illustrators need to decide.
- The author has chosen to omit the coordinating conjunction and in order to quicken the pace of the list.

Possible Teacher Imitation

As they are writing, authors need to decide key elements of their story: the characters, the setting, the plot.
There are people who write the story and people who draw it.

What Do Illustrator’s Do? by Eileen Christelow

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence with one independent clause (There are people…and people) and two dependent clauses (who write the story, who draw it).
- People and people is the compound subject of the independent clause, there are people…and people.
- The verb of the independent clause is are.
- The subject of the first and second dependent clause is who.
- The verb of the first dependent clause, who write the story, is write. The verb of the second dependent clause, who draw it, is draw.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.

Possible Teacher Imitation

There are people who photograph children and others who take pictures of animals.
Margaret pressed her head down harder into her knees, which were all shiny with tears.

Clementine by Marla Fraze
from page 6

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- Margaret is the subject of the independent clause, Margaret pressed her head down harder into her knees, pressed is the past tense verb.
- A comma separates the independent clause from the dependent clause, which were all shiny with tears.
- Into her knees and with tears are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Kelly covered her face with her hands, which were already dripping with tears.
If they had a special class for gifted kids in art, I would definitely be in it.

Clementine by Marla Frazee
from page 10

What do you notice?

• This is a declarative sentence.
• This is a complex sentence.
• If is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and begins the dependent clause, If they had a special class for gifted kids in art. The subject of the dependent clause is they and the verb is had.
• The independent clause is I would definitely be in it.
• I is a singular pronoun and the subject of the independent clause. The verb phrase is would be.
• A comma separates the dependent clause from the independent clause.
• In art and in it are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Kelly covered her face with her hands, which were already dripping with tears.
My teacher sent me to the principal’s office to have a little chat about sitting still.

Adapted from Clementine by Marla Frazee from page 48

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Teacher is the subject of the sentence; sent is the verb.
- To the principal’s office and about sitting still are prepositional phrases.
- Principal’s has an apostrophe used to show ownership (possessive noun).
- To have is an infinitive.

Possible Teacher Imitation

My teacher sent me to the art teacher’s room to learn about primary colors.
Mrs. Rice squeezed her eyes shut and rubbed her forehead.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Mrs. Rice is the subject of the sentence, squeezed and rubbed are the compound verbs.
- Mrs. Rice is a proper noun.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Mr. Jenkins snapped his fingers and whistled a tune.
The clerk counted my money and thought for a moment.

*Clementine* by Marla Frazee

from page 90

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *The clerk* is the subject of the sentence, *counted* and *thought* are the compound verbs.
- *For a moment* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The waitress took gave me a menu and handed me a glass of water to quench my thirst.
Cooking is in my blood - it’s a family tradition.

What do you notice?

- This is a compound sentence. The author has used a dash instead of a semi-colon to separate the independent clauses.
- Cooking is the subject of the first independent clause, it (‘s) is the subject of the second independent clause (referring the reader back to the subject in the first clause).
- Is is a present tense linking verb in the first independent clause, Cooking is in my blood.
- It’s is a contraction for “it is,” with is being a present tense linking verb in the second independent clause.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- The second independent clause explains the idiom, cooking is in my blood.
- In my blood is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Singing is in my blood-it’s a family tradition.
Long ago the grinding was done by hand; now it is done by machines.

Cook-A-Doodle-Doo! by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

What do you notice?

- This is a compound sentence in which the author has used a semi-colon to separate the independent clauses.
- *Was* is a past tense linking verb in the first independent clause and *is* is a present tense linking verb in the second independent clause.
- *Grinding* is the subject in the first independent clause, and *it* is the subject in the second independent clause.
- The author has effectively combined past tense in the first independent clause with present tense in the second independent clause by using time orientation (*long ago/now*).
- It's a declarative sentence.
- *By hand* and *by machines* are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Long ago stories were passed down by telling them; now they are written for people to read.
Some sifters have cranks, some have spring-action handles, and some are battery powered.

Cook-A-Doodle-Doo! by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

What do you notice?

- This is a compound sentence that contains three independent clauses.
- *Have* is a present tense verb in the first and second independent clauses and *are* is a present tense linking verb in the third independent clause.
- *Sifters* is the subject in the first independent clause, and *some* is the subject in the second and third clauses (with sifters being implied).
- *Some* is an adjective in the first clause.
- *Some* is an indefinite pronoun in the second and third clauses.
- It’s a declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Some cars have many seats, some have only two seats, and all are a form of transportation.
Dry ingredients are all sifted together so they will be evenly mixed.

Cook-A-Doodle-Doo! by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

What do you notice?

- This is a compound sentence that contains two independent clauses and is connected by the conjunction so.
- **Ingredients** is the subject in the first independent clause, and **they** is the subject in the second independent clause.
- **Are sifted** is the present tense verb phrase in the first clause and **will be mixed** is a future tense verb phrase in the second independent clause.
- **Dry** is an adjective in the first clause.
- **They** is plural subjective pronoun.
- It’s a declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Eggs and milk are whipped together, so they will be evenly mixed.
“I can do that!” said Iguana.

Cook-A-Doodle-Doo! by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

What do you notice?

- *I* is a personal subjective pronoun and the subject in the sentence.
- *Can do* is the verb phrase.
- This is an exclamatory quotation with the exclamation mark inside the quotation marks.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *Iguana* is capitalized as a proper noun because it is the character's name.

Possible Teacher Imitation

“I can do anything!” said Joey.
“I know my father left me everything because I am the oldest,” said the oldest.

Seven Spools of Thread by Angela Shelf Medearis

What do you notice?

• This is a complex sentence with one independent clause, I know, and two dependent clauses, my father left me everything, because I am the oldest.
• I is a personal subjective pronoun and the subject in the first and third clauses.
• The verb in the independent clause is know.
• The subject of the first dependent clause, my father left me everything, is father. The verb of this clause is left.
• The verb of the second dependent clause, because I am the oldest, is am.
• This is a direct quotation with a comma inside the quotation marks and a period at the end.
• This is a statement (declarative).
• Youngest is a superlative adjective in the first dependent clause.
• Said the oldest is a tag.

Possible Teacher Imitation

“I know my mother left me a doll because I am the youngest,” said the youngest.
Everything is mine!

What do you notice?

- This is a simple sentence.
- Everything is the subject.
- Is is a present tense linking verb that links everything (singular indefinite pronoun acting as the subject in the sentence) with mine (singular possessive pronoun).
- This is an exclamatory sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Nothing is yours!
It is yours for one bag of gold.

Seven Spools of Thread by Angela Shelf Medearis

What do you notice?

- This is a simple sentence.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- *It* is the subject of the sentence and a subjective pronoun.
- *Is* is the linking verb of the sentence.
- *Yours* is a possessive pronoun.
- Prepositional phrases – for one bag, of gold.

Possible Teacher Imitation

It is mine for one piece of silver.
When the cloth was finished, the seven brothers took turns neatly folding the brightly colored fabric.

Seven Spools of Thread by Angela Shelf Medearis

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence because it has one dependent clause, *when the cloth was finished*, and one independent clause, *the seven brothers took turns neatly folding the brightly colored fabric*.
- *Brothers* is the subject of the independent clause, and *took* is the verb.
- *Cloth* is the subject of the dependent clause and *was finished* is the verb phrase.
- *When* is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) that begins the dependent clause, *When the cloth was finished*.
- This is a declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When the dinner was finished, the six siblings took turns carefully washing the dirty dishes.
The brothers were not nice to each other.

What do you notice?

- This is a simple sentence.
- Were is a past tense linking verb that links the subject brothers (noun) with nice.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- The subject is brothers.
- The is an article adjective.
- To each other is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The students were kind to each other.
**Spartina has turned into a life-choking weed.**

*Washington Weed Whackers by Time for Kids*

**What do you notice?**

- This is a simple sentence.
- *Has turned* is the verb phrase.
- *Spartina* is a common noun and is only capitalized because it is at the beginning of the sentence.
- *Spartina* is the subject of the sentence.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- *Life-choking* is a hyphenated compound word.
- *Into a life-choking weed* is the prepositional phrase.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

Kudzu has become an invasive species in Florida.
Spartina is an alien species since it does not grow there naturally.

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence because it has an independent clause, spartina is an alien species, and a dependent clause since it does not grow there naturally.
- Since is a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- Is is a singular present tense linking verb.
- Spartina is a common noun and is only capitalized because it is at the beginning of the sentence.
- Spartina is the subject of the independent clause.
- The subject of the dependent clause, since it does not grow there naturally, is it. The verb phrase is does grow.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- The dependent clause works to define what alien species means in the sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Python are an alien species in the Everglades because they did not occur there naturally.
In the East it creates a good habitat, but in the West, it has caused crabs, snails, salmon, and shorebirds to leave because there is less food.

Washington Weed Whackers by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This is a compound complex sentence because it has two independent clauses, *in the East it creates a good habitat*, and *in the West, it has caused crabs, snails, salmon, and shorebirds to leave*, using a coordinating conjunction (*but*), and a dependent clause *because there is less food*.
- The subject of the first independent clause is *it*. The verb of the first independent is *creates*. Beginning that clause is a prepositional phrase, *In the East*.
- The subject of the second independent clause is *it* and the verb is *has caused*.
- The subject of the dependent clause, *because there is less food*, is *food*. The verb is *is*. (*There* is never a subject. It is an expletive.)
- This is a declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

In the mainland states it gets light and dark each day, but in Alaska the people, mammals, and birds have to live with days and days of darkness.
All of the kids have written letters.

Adapted from Washington Weed Whackers by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

• This is a simple sentence.
• Have written is the verb phrase.
• All is the subject of the sentence.
• This is a declarative sentence.
• Of the kids is the prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

All of the monkeys have eaten bananas.
The photo shows how spartina is spreading in Puget Sound and has crowded out native plants.

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence.
- The photo shows is the independent clause with photo as the subject and shows as the verb.
- How spartina is spreading in Puget Sound and has crowded out native plants is a dependent clause. The subject is spartina and the compound verb phrase is spreading and has crowded.
- Spartina is a common noun.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- Puget Sound is the name of a place (proper noun) so it is capitalized.
- In Puget Sound is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The photo shows how a sandhill crane is nesting in Florida and has found a good source of food.
Angela’s story began on Thanksgiving Day.

Here’s My Dollar by Gary Soto

What do you notice?

• This is a simple sentence.
• Began is an irregular past tense verb.
• Story is the subject of the sentence.
• Angela (‘s) and Thanksgiving Day are proper nouns.
• Angela’s is possessive noun - the story belongs to Angela - so it has an apostrophe.
• This is a declarative sentence.
• On Thanksgiving Day is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Diane’s vacation began on Christmas Day.
I heard that the Chaffee Zoo is having money problems.

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence because it contains an independent clause, *I heard*, and a dependent clause, *that the Chaffee Zoo is having money problems*.
- *Heard* is an irregular past tense verb (hear is present tense).
- *I* is the subject of the independent clause and a pronoun.
- The subject of the dependent clause is *Chaffee Zoo*. The verb phrase is *is having*.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- *Chaffee Zoo* is a proper noun and is capitalized.
- *Is* is a linking verb.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She sang the Star Spangled Banner while tapping her foot to the music.
Angela felt sorry for the zoo animals.

What do you notice?

- This is a simple sentence.
- *Felt* is an irregular past tense verb (feel is the present tense).
- *Angela* is the subject of the sentence and a proper noun.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- The prepositional phrase is *for the zoo animals*.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Devon felt happy for his little brother.
She planned to study them and become a zoologist when she grew up.

*Here’s My Dollar* by Gary Soto

**What do you notice?**

- This is a complex sentence.
- *She* is the subject of the independent clause, *She planned to study them and become a zoologist*.
- *She* is a subjective pronoun.
- *Planned* is the verb in the independent clause.
- *To study them and become a zoologist* is an infinitive phrase.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- Subordinating conjunction is *when*, which begins the dependent clause *when she grew up*. The subject of the dependent clause is *she* and the verb is *grew*.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

He wanted to read books and become an author when he grew up.
A week later, a man from The Fresno Bee came to take a picture of Angel.

*Here’s My Dollar* by Gary Soto

**What do you notice?**

- This is a simple sentence.
- *Came* is an irregular past tense verb (come is present tense).
- *Man* is the subject of the sentence and a common noun.
- *This is a declarative sentence.*
- *A week later,* is a (time) transitional phrase (temporal phrase).
- *The Fresno Bee* and *Angel* are proper nouns and capitalized.
- Prepositional phrases – *from The Fresno Bee, of Angel*
- *To take a picture* is an infinitive phrase.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

One day, a reporter from Florida Today came to take a photograph of Alfred.
A little space was all I wanted, but there wasn’t much of it.

My Very Own Room by Amanda Irma Perez

What do you notice?

- This is a compound complex sentence because it has two independent clauses, *a little space was all* and *there wasn’t much of it* that are joined with the coordinating conjunction *but*. The dependent clause begins with the understood *that*, and is found within the first independent clause, *(that) I wanted.*
- *Space* is the subject of the first independent clause and *was* is the past tense verb.
- *Much* is the subject of the second independent clause and *was* is the past tense verb.
- The subject of the dependent clause is *I* and the verb is *wanted*.
- *I* is a personal pronoun.
- *Was* is a linking verb.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- A comma is used to separate the two independent clauses and comes before the conjunction.
- *WASN’T* is a contraction for “was not.”

Possible Teacher Imitation

A little snack is all I craved, but there wasn’t any food.
**It wasn’t that I didn’t want to be near them.**

*My Very Own Room* by Amanda Irma Perez

**What do you notice?**

- This is a complex sentence because it has an independent clause, *it wasn’t*, and a dependent clause, *that I didn’t want to be near them.*
- *It* is a subjective pronoun and the subject of the independent clause and *was* is the verb.
- *I* is the subject of the dependent clause and *did want* is the verb.
- *Wasn’t* is a contraction for “was not” and *didn’t* is a contraction for “did not.”
- *Did* is a helping verb.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- The verbs are past tense.
- This sentence contains two negatives (*wasn’t/didn’t*) which results in a positive meaning (she did want to be near them).

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

It wasn’t that they didn’t want to go to school.
I was so excited yet so afraid we wouldn’t have enough stamps to get it.

My Very Own Room by Amanda Irma Perez

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence because it has an independent clause, *I was so excited yet so afraid*, and a dependent clause, *(that) we wouldn’t have enough stamps to get it.*
- *I* is a pronoun and the subject of the independent clause.
- *Was* is a linking verb in the independent clause.
- *We* is the subject of the dependent clause and *would have* is the verb.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- *Wouldn’t* is a contraction for “would not.”

Possible Teacher Imitation

I was so scared yet so curious that I couldn’t stop staring at the mouse hiding in the bushes.
I felt like the luckiest, happiest little girl in the whole world.

My Very Own Room by Amanda Irma Perez

What do you notice?

- This is a simple sentence.
- *I* is a pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- *Felt* is the irregular past tense verb.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- This sentence is past tense.
- *Luckiest* and *happiest* are both superlative adjectives.
- *In the whole world* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

I felt like the prettiest, sweetest little girl in the whole school.
The lamp was as dainty as a beautiful ballerina, and it didn’t cost too many stamps.

Adapted from My Very Own Room by Amanda Irma Perez

What do you notice?

- This is a compound sentence because it contains two independent clauses: the lamp was as dainty as a beautiful ballerina and it didn’t cost too many stamps.
- Lamp is a common noun and the subject of the first independent clause.
- Was is a linking verb in the first independent clause.
- The subject of the second independent clause is it and the verb is did cost.
- Didn’t is a contraction for “did not.”
- Not (n’t) is an adverb.
- As a beautiful ballerina is a prepositional phrase.
- This is a declarative sentence.
- As dainty as a beautiful ballerina is a simile because it compares two things that are not alike and uses the word “as.”

Possible Teacher Imitation

Here skin was a smooth as silk, and it didn’t have any scrapes.
Henry thought it would be fun to have a skunk, but it cost forty dollars.

Adapted from *Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary

What do you notice?

- This is a compound sentence because it contains two independent clauses: 
  
  *Henry thought it would be fun to have a skunk* and *it cost forty dollars.*

- *Henry* is a proper noun and the subject of the first independent clause.

- *Thought* is the verb of the first independent clause.

- *But* is the conjunction that connects the clauses and follows the comma.

- The subject of the second independent clause is *it* and the verb is *cost.*

- It's a declarative sentence.

- The two ideas can be combined into one sentence because the second independent clause adds information to the idea of Henry wanting a skunk. The conjunction, *but,* signals the reader that Henry probably won't get a skunk because the cost is too high.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Pam thought it would be interesting to have a python, but it cost fifty dollars.
Henry Huggins is a third grader.

Adapted from Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary

What do you notice?

- *Henry Huggins* is a proper noun and the subject of the sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *Is* is a present tense verb (a form of the verb “be”).
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- *Third* is an ordinal number.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Mrs. Jenkins is a third grade teacher.
I have to catch a bus for home.

Adapted from *Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary

What do you notice?

- *I* is a pronoun and the subject of the sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *Have* is a present tense verb.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- *To catch* is an infinitive.
- *For home* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

He has to ride a bus to school.
Henry went to the front door.

What do you notice?

- *Henry* is a *proper noun* and the subject of the sentence.
- This is a *simple sentence*.
- *Went* is a past tense irregular verb (*go* is present tense).
- It’s a *declarative sentence*.
- *To the front door* is the prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Samantha came to the party.
Henry sat down to wait for his turn.

Adapted from Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary

What do you notice?

- *Henry* is a proper noun and the subject of the sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *Sat* is the verb of the sentence.
- It’s a declarative sentence.
- *To wait* is an infinitive.
- *For his turn* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Betty went up to receive her award.
When we got there, I thought we’d live with Pa in the gold fields.

Boom Town by Sonia Levitin

What do you notice?

- An independent clause and two dependent clauses create this complex sentence.
- I is a singular subjective pronoun and the subject of the independent clause, I thought …in the gold fields, thought is the verb.
- When is a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- When we got there is a dependent clause (a subordinate clause is always followed by a comma). The subject is we and the verb is got.
- The other dependent clause is (that) we’d live with Pa. We is the subject and would live is the verb.
- We’d is a contraction for we would and we is a plural subjective pronoun.
- The is an article adjective.
- Prepositions - with, in
- Prepositional phrases - with Pa, in the gold fields

Possible Teacher Imitation

When we arrived, I pondered about the things we’d do at Universal Studios.
It was so wide and lonesome out west, even my shadow ran off.

What do you notice?

- *It* is the subject of the sentence and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Was* is the linking verb in the sentence.
- *Wide* and *lonesome* are adjectives.
- *So* is an adverb.
- *And* is a coordinating conjunction.
- *Even my shadow ran off* is an example of a hyperbole (exaggeration) and is the dependent clause.
- Preposition-*out*
- Prepositional phrase-*out west*
- Declarative sentence

Possible Teacher Imitation

It was so cramped and stuffy in the classroom, even my arms and legs were smashed against me.
That night we ate my gooseberry pie, and it was delicious.

Boom Town by Sonia Levitin

What do you notice?

- This is a compound declarative sentence.
- We is the subject of the first independent clause and a plural first person pronoun.
- Ate is the verb in the first independent clause.
- It is the subject in the second independent clause and a first person singular pronoun.
- Was is the verb in the second independent clause.
- Pie is a common noun
- Gooseberry is an adjective.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.
- Delicious is an adjective.

Possible Teacher Imitation

That day we slurped my strawberry banana smoothie, and it was luscious.
Before we knew it, the bank was built and the wooden sidewalks were laid.

Boom Town by Sonia Levitin

What do you notice?

- This is a compound complex sentence: dependent clause and two independent clauses.
- The dependent clause is before we knew it which begins with a subordinating conjunction before (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- The first independent clause is the bank was built and the second independent clause is the wooden sidewalks were laid.
- And is a coordinating conjunction joining the compound clauses.
- The is an article adjective.
- Wooden is an adjective.
- This is a declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Before we noticed our errors, the mistakes were marked and the corrections were made.
We heard the tap tap of his hammer and smelled the sweet leather.

_Boom Town_ by Sonia Levitin

What do you notice?

- *We* is the subject of the sentence and a first person plural pronoun.
- *Heard* and *smelled* is the compound verb in the sentence.
- *Tap tap* is onomatopoeia (sound word).
- *The* is an article adjective.
- The prepositional phrase is *of his hammer*
- *And* is a coordinating conjunction.
- *Sweet* is an adjective.
- *Leather* is a common noun.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

We heard the pop pop of the popcorn and smelled the salty, buttery treat.
Beatrice lives here with her mother and five younger brothers and sisters in a sturdy mud house with a fine steel roof.

What do you notice?

- *Beatrice* is the subject of the sentence and a proper noun.
- *Lives* is the verb in the sentence.
- Subject verb agreement-*Beatrice* and *lives* are singular
- *Here* is an adverb.
- Prepositions-*with, in, with*
- Prepositional phrases-*with her mother and five younger brothers and sisters, in a sturdy mud house, with a fine steel roof*
- *And* is a coordinating conjunction.
- This is a declarative simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Gwendolyn lives there with her mother and father and two grandparents in a cozy, cute cottage with a white picket fence.
Often, the students had carried their long wooden benches outside to work under the cool shade of the jackfruit trees.

What do you notice?

- *Students* is the subject of the sentence and a common noun.
- *Had carried* is the verb in the sentence.
- *Often* is an adverb.
- *Their* is a plural possessive pronoun.
- *Benches* is a common plural noun.
- *Long and wooden* are adjectives.
- *Outside* is an adverb.
- Prepositions-*under, of*
- Prepositional phrases-*under the cool shade, of the jackfruit trees*
- *To work* is an infinitive (to + verb).
- This is a declarative simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Frequently, the teachers had carried their stuffed heavy tote home to work in a comfortable cool environment at their house.
One day, Beatrice returned from collecting water and noticed Mama frowning and counting the money in her woven purse.

Beatrice’s Goat by Page McBrier

What do you notice?

- *Beatrice* is the subject of the sentence and a proper noun.
- *Returned* and *noticed* is the compound verb in the sentence.
- Transitional phrase-*One day*
- *And* is a coordinating conjunction.
- *Mama* is a proper noun because it is used as a name.
- Prepositions-*from, in*
- Prepositional phrases-*from collecting water, in her woven purse*
- *Frowning and counting the money* is a participial phrase modifying *Mama*.
- This is a declarative simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

One day, Harvey returned from mowing the lawn and noticed Dad sighing and fixing the car in his driveway.
Often she would spy her friend Bunane coming through the banana grove.

What do you notice?

- *She* is the subject of the sentence and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Would spy* is the verb in the sentence.
- *Often* is an adverb.
- *Bunane* is a proper noun.
- *Friend* is an adjective.
- *Her* is a singular possessive pronoun.
- *Coming through the banana grove* is a participial phrase modifying Bunane.
- This is a declarative, simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Many times she would notice her friend Abigail coming through the alley behind her house.
Her long fingers tugged patiently at the weeds.

What do you notice?

- *Fingers* is the subject of the sentence.
- *Tugged* is the verb in the sentence.
- *Her* is a possessive pronoun.
- *Fingers* is a common noun.
- *Long* is an adjective.
- *Patiently* is an adverb.
- Preposition-*at*
- Prepositional phrase-*at the weeds*
- This is a declarative simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

His sharp eagle eyes gazed longingly at the prized baseball.
**Mottola believed kids should be a big part of his carousel project, so he held drawing classes in Riverbank State Park.**

* A Carousel of Dreams by *Time for Kids*

**What do you notice?**

- Compound complex sentence-two independent clauses joined by the coordinating conjunction *so* and a dependent clause.
- A comma is used before *so* to separate the two independent clauses.
- *Mottola* is the subject and *believed* is the verb in the first independent clause, *Mottola believed.*
- The subject of the dependent clause, *(that) kids should be a big part of his carousel project,* is *kids* and the verb is *should be.*
- *He* is the subject and *held* is the verb of the second independent clause, *he held drawing classes in Riverbank State Park.*
- *Classes* is a common noun.
- *Drawing* is an adjective.
- Prepositions-*of, in*
- Prepositional phrases-*of his carousel project, in Riverside State Park*
- *Riverside State Park* is a proper noun.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

Henrietta thought animals should be an important part of her life, so she spent Saturdays at the SPCA.
When 9-year old Grover Austin heads to the carousel, he hops on the green lion!

A Carousel of Dreams by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This complex sentence has a dependent clause and an independent clause separated by a comma.
- *When* is a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) that begins the dependent clause, *When 9-year old Grover Austin heads to the carousel.*
- The subject of the dependent clause is *Grover Austin* and the verb is *heads*.
- *He* is the subject of the independent clause, *he hops on the green lion* and *hops* is the verb.
- Preposition - *on*
- Prepositional phrases - *to the carousel, on the green lion*
- This is an exclamatory sentence.
- *Grover Austin* is a proper noun.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When 8-year old Bethany Banini heads to the playground, she hops on the black tire swing!
Riverbank State Park in New York City is famous for its carousel.

Adapted from A Carousel of Dreams by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- *Riverbank State Park* is the subject of the sentence and a proper noun.
- *New York City* and *River State Park* are capitalized because they are proper nouns.
- *Is* is the verb.
- *Famous* is an adjective.
- Prepositions - *in, for*
- Prepositional phrases - *in New York City, for its carousel*
- *Its* is a possessive pronoun.
- The word *its* is always followed by a noun.
- This is a declarative, simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida is famous for its roller coasters.
They had a lot of pride in their designs of fancy horses and chariots.

A Carousel of Dreams by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- They is the subject of the sentence and a plural subjective pronoun.
- Had is the verb in the sentence.
- A is an article adjective.
- Fancy is an adjective.
- Prepositions - of, in
- Prepositional phrases - of pride, in their designs, of fancy horses and chariots
- This is a declarative, simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

They had oodles of confidence in their stories about scary forests and jungles.
It doesn’t hold the usual herd of painted ponies.

What do you notice?

- *It* is the subject of the sentence and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Doesn’t* is a contraction for does not.
- *Does hold* is the verb in the sentence.
- *Not (n’t)* is an adverb.
- *The* is an article adjective.
- *Usual* is an adjective.
- *Herd* is a common noun.
- Preposition-of
- Prepositional phrases-of *painted ponies*
- This is a declarative, simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

It does have the typical bleachers of a school gymnasium.
He wears a printer’s four-cornered newspaper hat.

Adapted from The Printer by Myron Uhlberg

What do you notice?

- *He* is the subject of the sentence and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Wears* is the verb in the sentence.
- Subject verb agreement - *He wears*
- *A* is an article adjective.
- *Printer’s* is a possessive common noun acting as an adjective.
- *Four-cornered* is a hyphenated compound word and used as an adjective.
- *Newspaper* is an adjective and a compound word.
- This is a declarative, simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

They wore sailor’s three-cornered canvas hats.
The fire spreads quickly, silently.

Adapted from The Printer by Myron Uhlberg

What do you notice?

- *Fire* is the subject of the sentence and a common noun.
- *Spreads* is the verb in the sentence.
- Subject verb agreement - fire spreads
- *Quickly* and *silently* are adverbs and separated by a comma.
- *The* is an article adjective.
- This is a declarative, simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The storm grew slowly, ferociously.
They point to the fire, which had now spread to the wall next to the only exit.

Adapted from The Printer by Myron Uhlberg

What do you notice?

- This is a complex sentence.
- They is the subject of the independent clause, They point to the fire, and a plural subjective pronoun. Point is the verb.
- Subject verb agreement - They point
- The dependent clause is which had now spread to the wall next to the only exit.
- Prepositions - to
- Prepositional phrases - to the fire, to the field, to the only exit
- This is a declarative sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She points to the rain, which had now spread to the field next to the many portables.
They embrace one another as the fire engines arrive.

Adapted from The Printer by Myron Uhlberg

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative complex sentence.
- They is the subject of the independent clause and a plural, subjective pronoun.
- Embrace is the verb.
- The subject and verb are plural-**They embrace**
- Another is an indefinite singular pronoun.
- As is a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- As the fire engines arrive is the dependent clause.

Possible Teacher Imitation

He hugs everybody as the champion basketball game ends.
My father stands alone, struck numb by the last image of the burning presses.

Adapted from The Printer by Myron Uhlberg

What do you notice?

- *Father* is the subject of the sentence and a common noun.
- *Stands* is the verb in the sentence.
- Subject verb agreement-*father stands*
- *Struck numb by the last image of the burning presses* is a past participial phrase that modifies *father*.
- *My* is a possessive singular pronoun.
- *Alone* and *numb* are adverbs.
- Prepositions-*by, of*
- Prepositional phrases-*by the last image, of the burning presses*
- This is a declarative, simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

My mom walks alone, struck sad by the last scene of the injured puppy.
Doesn’t it feel good to come indoors on a cold winter day?

Adapted from Animal Homes by Ann O. Squire

What do you notice?

- *It is* the subject of the sentence and a subjective singular pronoun.
- *Does feel* is the verb in the sentence.
- Doesn’t is a contraction for does not.
- Preposition - *on*
- Prepositional phrase - *on a cold winter day*
- This is an interrogative, simple sentence.
- *To come indoors is an infinitive phrase.*

Possible Teacher Imitation

Doesn’t it feel amazing to get an “A” on a really hard test?
Let’s find out about some unusual animal homes.

Adapted from *Animal Homes* by Ann O. Squire

**What do you notice?**

- You *is* the understood subject of the sentence.
- Find *is* the verb in the sentence.
- Let’s *is* a contraction for let us.
- Preposition-*about*
- Prepositional phrase - *about some unusual animal homes*
- Imperative simple sentence

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

Let’s find out about some silly sports bloopers.
The beavers can come and go easily, but it’s almost impossible for wolves to get in.

Adapted from Animal Homes by Ann O. Squire

What do you notice?

- Compound sentence - two independent clauses separated by the coordinating conjunction but
- Beavers is a plural common noun and the subject of the first independent clause and come and go is the compound verb.
- It is a singular subjective pronoun and the subject in the second independent clause and is the verb.
- The is an article adjective.
- Easily and almost are adverbs.
- Preposition - for
- Prepositional phrase - for wolves
- To get in is an infinitive phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The dogs can run and play freely, but it’s clearly difficult for caged hamsters to get out.
The pea crab doesn’t even wait until a shell is empty.

What do you notice?

- Complex sentence- independent clause (*the pea crab doesn’t even wait*), dependent clause (*until a shell is empty*).
- *Crab* is the subject of the independent clause, *The pea crab doesn’t even wait*, and *does wait* is the verb.
- *Doesn’t* is a contraction for *does not*.
- *Pea* is an adjective.
- *The* is an article adjective.
- *Not* (*n’t*) and *even* are adverbs.
- *Until* is a subordinating conjunction.
- The subject of the dependent clause, *until a shell is empty*, is *shell* and the verb is *is*.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The petite puppy doesn’t even play unless the squeaky toy sits on the beige chair.
Birds don’t usually live underground, but one that does is the burrowing owl.

What do you notice?

- This is a compound complex sentence with two independent clauses separated by the coordinating conjunction but and a short dependent clause, that does.
- The subject of the first independent clause is the plural common noun birds and the verb is do.
- The subject of the second independent clause is one and the verb is is.
- The subject of the dependent clause is that and the verb is does.
- Don’t is a contraction for do not.
- The is an article adjective.
- Not (n’t), usually, underground, and that are adverbs.
- Owl is a noun.
- Burrowing is an adjective.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Birds don’t usually live in cages, but ones that do are birds that are pets.
Dink’s parents had named him Donald David Dink.

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is the plural common noun parents.
- Had named is the verb in the sentence.
- Dink’s is a possessive proper noun acting as an adjective.
- Him is a singular objective pronoun.
- Donald David Dink is a proper noun.
- This is a simple sentence

Possible Teacher Imitation

Nancy’s parents had named her Nancy Nicole Nash.
*He wore a white turban, a black tunic, and red trousers.*

*A to Z Mysteries: The Yellow Yacht* by Ron Roy
from page 10

What do you notice?

- The subject of the sentence is the singular subjective pronoun *He*.
- *Wore* is the verb in the sentence.
- Subject verb agreement - *he wore*
- *Turban, tunic, and trousers* are common nouns.
- *White, black, and red* are adjectives.
- The sentence has commas in a series.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

She wore a pink blouse, a fuchsia bow, and white slacks.
The guards check every car going through the gate.

A to Z Mysteries: The Yellow Yacht by Ron Roy
from page 53

What do you notice?

- Guards is a plural common noun and the subject of the sentence.
- Check is the verb in the sentence.
- Car is a common noun.
- Every is an adjective.
- Going through the gate is a participial phrase.
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The bus drivers check every backpack going on the bus.
The kids follow Sammi down a sloping bank into the bottom of the pit

Adapted from A to Z Mysteries: The Yellow Yacht by Ron Roy
from page 10

What do you notice?

- *Kids* is the subject of the sentence.
- *Follow* is the verb in the sentence.
- Subject verb agreement with plural subject and verb - *kids follow*
- *Sammi* is a proper noun.
- Prepositions - *down, into, of*
- Prepositional phrases - *down a sloping bank, into the bottom, of the pit*
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The kid follows Anita down the hall into the back of the room.
His eyes sparkled like black marbles.

Adapted from *A to Z Mysteries: The Yellow Yacht* by Ron Roy
from page 18

What do you notice?

- *Eyes* is a plural common noun and the subject of the sentence.
- *Sparkled* is the verb in the sentence.
- *His* is a possessive singular pronoun.
- *Eyes sparkled like black marbles* is a simile.
- Preposition-*like*
- Prepositional phrase - like black marbles
- This is a simple sentence.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Her hair shines like spun gold.
My mother scraped wallpaper off crusty walls that crumbled like toast.

A Castle on Viola Street by DyAnne DiSalvo

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- *My mother scraped wallpaper off crusty walls* is the independent clause.
- *That crumbled like toast* is the dependent clause beginning with a relative pronoun *that*.
- *Mother* is the subject of the independent clause.
- *Scraped* is the past tense action verb of the independent clause.
- *That* is the subject of the dependent clause and *crumbled* is the verb.
- *Off crusty walls* is a prepositional phrase.
- *Crusty* is an adjective describing the *walls*.
- *Crumbled like toast* is a simile.

Possible Teacher Imitation

My mother iced the chocolate cake that smelled like heaven.
Piece by piece, the inside of the first house came apart: one old bathtub, some cabinets, sinks.

_A Castle on Viola Street_ by DyAnne DiSalvo

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *Piece by piece* is an adverbial phrase modifying how it came apart. It is also an idiom.
- *Inside* is the subject of the sentence.
- *Came* is the verb.
- The preposition is _of the first house_.
- A colon is used before a list.
- There are commas in a series.
- *Apart* is an adverb.
- *First, one, old, and some* are adjectives.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Little by little, his car fell apart: engine, transmission, lights.
The kitchen had shiny linoleum floors and brand-new appliances.

A Castle on Viola Street by DyAnne DiSalvo

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Kitchen is the subject of the sentence.
- Had is the verb.
- Shiny, linoleum, brand, and brand-new are adjectives.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.

Possible Teacher Imitation

The restaurant had fresh fruit pies and hand dipped milk shakes.
It was a small place to live in for one whole family, but somehow we made the room.

A Castle on Viola Street by DyAnne DiSalvo

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- *It* is the subject of the first clause, *It was a small place to live in for one whole family*, and *was* is the verb.
- *We* is the subject of the second independent clause, *somehow we made the room*, and *made* is the verb.
- The clauses are separated by a comma and the coordinating conjunction *but*.
- *Small, one, whole*, and *somehow* are adjectives
- Prepositional phrase – *for one whole family*
- *To live* is the infinitive.

Possible Teacher Imitation

It was a tiny classroom, but somehow we each had our own desk for independent work.
When the Tran family moved in, they threw a potluck supper.

A Castle on Viola Street by DyAnne DiSalvo

What do you notice?

• This is a declarative sentence.
• This is a complex sentence.
• When is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and begins the subordinating clause, When the Tran family moved in. The subject of this dependent clause is family and the verb is moved.
• They is the subject of the independent clause, they threw a potluck supper, and threw is the verb.
• Tran and potluck are adjectives.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When the Smith family moved in, we brought them a giant chocolate cake.
“You’re ever so much brighter than I am,” said Wilbur.

Adapted from Wilbur’s Boast by E.B. White

What do you notice?

- The quote is a declarative statement.
- The quote is a complex sentence.
- You is the subject of the independent clause, You’re ever so much brighter.
- Are (’re) is the verb.
- You’re is a contraction for you are.
- Than I am is the dependent clause. I is the subject and am is the verb.
- Ever, so and much are adverbs; brighter is a comparative adjective.
- Quotation marks are used to indicate speaking.

Possible Teacher Imitation

“You’re ever so much taller than me,” said Angel.
You’re the smelliest creature in this place.

Wilbur’s Boast by E.B. White

What do you notice?

• This is a declarative sentence.
• This is a simple sentence.
• You is the subject of the sentence.
• Are (‘re) is the verb.
• You’re is a contraction for you are.
• Smelliest is the superlative adjective used to describe the creature.
• In this place is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

You’re the nicest teacher in this entire school.
Spiders spin the best webs.

Adapted from Wilbur’s Boast by E.B. White

What do you notice?

• This is a declarative sentence.
• This is a simple sentence.
• Spiders is a plural noun and the subject of the sentence.
• Spin is the verb.
• Best is an adjective describing webs.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Grandmas give the best hugs.
Wilbur’s pen is smellier than most of the other animal’s pens.

Adapted from Wilbur’s Boast by E.B. White

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- Pen is the subject of the independent clause, Wilbur’s pen is smellier.
- Is is the verb.
- Than most of the other animal’s pens, is the dependent clause. The subject of this dependent clause is most and the verb is the understood ellipses, are, than most of the other animal’s pens (are).
- An apostrophe is used to show possession Wilbur’s, which is a possessive noun.
- Smellier is a comparative adjective.
- Animal’s has an apostrophe to show possession and is used as an adjective describing the type of pen.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Mark’s fish was bigger than his dad’s fish.
If they’d hang head-down at the top of the thing and wait quietly, maybe something good would come along.

Wilbur’s Boast by E.B. White

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- If is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and begins the subordinating clause: If they’d hang head-down at the top of the thing and wait quietly. The subject of the dependent clause is they and the compound verb is would hang and wait.
- They’d is a contraction for they would.
- Something is the subject of the independent clause, maybe something good would come along, would come is the verb.
- Good is an adjective.

Possible Teacher Imitation

If they’d hang head-down at the top of the thing and wait quietly, maybe something better would come along.
Glenn admits that he was creakier than the rest of the crew.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- Glenn is the subject of the independent clause, Glen admits.
- Admits is the verb.
- That he was creakier is the first dependent clause beginning with the relative pronoun that. The subject is he and the verb of this dependent clause is was.
- Creakier is a comparative adverb.
- The second dependent clause is than the rest of the crew. The subject is rest and the verb is an understood ellipses, was - than the rest of the crew (was).
- Of the crew is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Stephanie thought that she was smarter than the rest of her classmates.
The U.S. had finally caught up with the Soviet Union in the space race.

An American Hero Flies Again by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- U.S. is the subject of the sentence.
- Had caught is the verb.
- Finally is an adverb.
- U.S. is an abbreviation for United States.
- Soviet Union is a proper noun.
- Space is an adjective.
- With the Soviet Union, in the space race are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Hanover Elementary finally caught up with Chester Elementary in the recycling race.
Glenn wasn’t automatically accepted for the 1998 mission.

An American Hero Flies Again by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Glenn is the subject of the sentence.
- Was accepted is the verb.
- Not (n’t) is an adverb.
- Wasn’t is a contraction for was not.
- Automatically is an adverb.
- 1998 is an adjective describing when the mission took place.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Ben didn’t automatically make the football team.
As people grow older, they experience physical problems, such as loss of balance and muscle tone.

An American Hero Flies Again by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- As is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and begins the subordinating clause, As people grow older. The subject is people and the verb is grow.
- They is the subject of the independent clause, they experience physical problems, such as loss of balance and muscle tone; experience is the verb.
- Automatically is an adverb.
- Physical is an adjective describing the types of problems.
- Muscle is an adjective describing tone.

Possible Teacher Imitation

As children get tired, they experience physical clues, such as rubbing their eyes and becoming cranky.
Because John Glenn wore monitors, scientists today can study the historical data of this trip.

An American Hero Flies Again by Time for Kids

What do you notice?

• This is a declarative sentence.
• This is a complex sentence.
• Because is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and begins the dependent clause, Because John Glenn wore monitors. The subject of this dependent clause is John Glenn and the verb is wore.
• Scientists is the subject of the independent clause, scientists today can study the historical data of this trip, can study is the verb.
• Historical is an adjective describing the type of data.
• Today is an adverb describing when they can study.
• Of this trip is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Because the whales have tracking devices on them, scientists today can study their migration patterns.
She was following her heart, and the nursery filled up quickly.

Mother to Tigers by George Ella Lyon

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- *She* is the subject of the first independent clause, *She was following her heart*, and *was following* is the verb.
- *Nursery* is the subject of the second independent clause, *the nursery filled up quickly*, and *filled* is the verb.
- *Quickly* is an adverb telling how the *nursery filled up*.
- A comma separates the clauses followed by the coordinating conjunction *and*.

Possible Teacher Imitation

He was following his heart, and his project really took off.
Happily, she took cubs home: adorable lions, tiny tigers, jumpy jaguars, and a black leopard.

Adapted from Mother to Tigers by George Ella Lyon

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- She is the subject
- Took is the verb.
- Happily is an adverb describing how she took the cubs home.
- There is a colon before the list and commas are used to separate the items in the list.
- Adorable, tiny, jumpy, and black are adjectives.
- Lions, tigers, and jaguars are plural common nouns.
- Leopard is a singular common noun.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Sadly, it was time to leave the animals: goofy gorillas, playful otters, giant ostriches, and a lazy bear.
When you go to the zoo, look hard at the mighty cats.

Adapted from Mother to Tigers by George Ella Lyon

What do you notice?

- The sentence is an imperative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- You is the subject.
- Look is the verb.
- When is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and begins the subordinating clause, When you go to the zoo. The subject of this dependent clause is you and the verb is go.
- You is the understood subject of the independent clause, look hard at the mighty cats, look is the verb.
- Hard is an adverb describing how to look.
- To the zoo and at the mighty cats are prepositional phrases.
- Mighty is an adjective describing cats.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When you go to an aquarium, spend lots of time with the giant killer whales.
At last he gave a weak cry; finally he was well enough.

Adapted from *Mother to Tigers* by George Ella Lyon

**What do you notice?**

- The sentence is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- *He* is a subjective pronoun.
- *He* is the subject of the first independent clause, *At last he gave a weak cry*, *gave* is the verb.
- *At last* is a prepositional phrase.
- *Weak* is an adjective.
- *He* is the subject of the second independent clause, *finally he was well enough*, *was* is the verb.
- *Finally* is an adverb.
- A semicolon joins the independent clauses.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

At last he took a deep breath; finally he was getting better.
Before long, their little apartment was full of song and feathers.

Adapted from Mother to Tigers by George Ella Lyon

What do you notice?

- The sentence is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- Apartment is the subject.
- Was is the verb.
- Before long and of song and feathers are prepositional phrases.
- Little is an adjective.
- Their is a plural possessive pronoun.

Possible Teacher Imitation

After awhile, their tiny house was full of laughter and joy.
Soon it became hard for the people to catch enough fish.

Adapted from *Home-Grown Butterflies* by Deborah Churchman

**What do you notice?**

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- This sentence begins with the adverb *Soon*, which functions as a temporal (transition) word.
- *It* is the subject of the sentence.
- *Became* is the verb.
- *For the people* is a preposition.
- *Enough* is an adjective describing fish.
- *To catch enough fish* is an infinitive phrase.

**Possible Teacher Imitation**

Soon it became dark and hard for them to find their way back to the campsite.
If adults saw kids making money with butterflies, they might want to start their own farm and protect the forest.

Adapted from *Home-Grown Butterflies* by Deborah Churchman

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- *If* is the subordinating conjunction (AAAWWWUBBIS) and begins the subordinating clause, *If adults saw kids making money with butterflies*. The subject of this dependent clause is *adults* and the verb is *saw*.
- *Making money with kids* is a participial phrase.
- *They* is the subject of the independent clause, *they might want to start their own farm and protect the forest might want*.
- *Want* and *protect* are the compound verbs.
- *Good* is an adjective.

Possible Teacher Imitation

If adults saw kids having a good time in the pool, they might want to jump in and get wet.
Butterflies drink nectar from certain flowers, and they lay their eggs on other plants.

Home-Grown Butterflies by Deborah Churchman

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- Butterflies is the subject of the first independent clause, Butterflies drink nectar from certain flowers.
- Drink is the verb.
- And is a coordinating conjunction combining the two independent clauses.
- They is the subject of the second independent clause, they lay their eggs on other plants.
- Lay is the verb.
- From certain flowers and on other plants are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Ants find food in one place, and they carry it back to the queen.
First they had to clear a lot of trash out of the schoolyard.

Home-Grown Butterflies by Deborah Churchman

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- This sentence begins with an adverb First.
- They is the subject of the sentence.
- Had is the verb.
- Of trash, of the schoolyard are the prepositional phrases
- To clear is an infinitive.

Possible Teacher Imitation

First they had to remove the old paint from the walls.
Next, they planted flowers to attract the butterflies.

Home-Grown Butterflies by Deborah Churchman

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- This sentence begins with an adverb followed by a comma: Next, which also functions as a temporal (transition) word.
- They is the subject of the sentence.
- Planted is the verb.
- To attract the butterflies is an infinitive (to + verb) phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Next, they put up signs and balloons to attract the early garage sale hoppers.
**By the middle of May, she had improved.**

*Superfudge* by Judy Blume

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *She* is the subject of the sentence and a subjective pronoun.
- *Had improved* is the verb.
- *May* is a proper noun and must be capitalized.
- *By the middle* and *of May* are prepositional phrases.

Possible Teacher Imitation

**By the middle of the summer, the children were bored.**
Outside, it was gray and humid.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- It is the subject of the sentence.
- Was is the verb.
- Gray and humid are adjectives.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.
- The sentence begins with an adverb, Outside.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Outside, it was hot and sunny.
She wore sneakers, blue jeans, and a red and white shirt.

Adapted from *Superfudge* by Judy Blume from page 55

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a simple sentence.
- *She* is the subject of the sentence and a singular subjective pronoun.
- *Sneakers, jeans, and shirt* are common nouns.
- *Wore* is the verb.
- Commas in a series are used to separate the list of things *she wore*.
- *Blue, red, and white* are the adjectives.

Possible Teacher Imitation

He wore a bright yellow football jersey, white pads, and a blue helmet.
Alex gave me a look, and we thanked Mrs. Muldour and walked away.

Superfudge by Judy Blume
from page 56

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a compound sentence.
- Alex is the subject of the first independent clause, Alex gave me a look, and gave is the verb.
- We is the subject of the second independent clause, we thanked Mrs. Muldour and walked away, thanked and walked are the compound verbs.
- A comma is used to separate the clauses in the sentence.
- And is a coordinating conjunction.
- Mrs. Muldour is a proper noun and must be capitalized.

Possible Teacher Imitation

Dad nodded his head, and we hopped in the car and drove away.
When he’s thinking hard, he scrunches up his lips and looks like a monkey.

What do you notice?

- This is a declarative sentence.
- This is a complex sentence.
- *When* is a subordinate clause (AAAWWWUBBIS).
- *When he’s thinking hard* is a dependent clause and is followed by a comma. The subject of this dependent clause is *he* and the verb is *(s) is*.
- *He scrunches up his lips and looks like a monkey* is an independent clause.
- *He* is the subject of the independent clause, *scrunches* and *looks* are the compound verbs.
- *Looks like a monkey* is a simile comparing his looks when he is thinking hard to a monkey.
- *Like a monkey* is a prepositional phrase.

Possible Teacher Imitation

When he’s working hard, he sticks his tongue out and buries his head in his book like a bookworm.
“...grammar is a tool to help the reader and writer 'see.' Grammar focuses us in on the writer's point and 'zooms in on' all the details that help enhance the point.”

Jeff Anderson, Mechanically Inclined

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