

GW5 Grammar & Writing Sample

Grammar & Writing

September 1, 2020

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Name: (First) _____ (Last) _____

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Writing Prompt: Moment of Glory

If you are in the "Grading by Mailing" program, finish your essay as instructed. Tear the page off and mail it in with the self-addressed envelope. In a week, you will receive your graded essay with comments and suggestions by a certified professional.

Your essay must be written on the lines provided on your answer sheet -- you will receive no other paper on which to write. You will have enough space if you write on every line, avoid wide margins, and keep your handwriting to a reasonable size. Remember that people who are not familiar with your handwriting will read what you write. Try to write or print so that what you are writing is legible to those readers.

You have twenty-five minutes to write an essay on the topic assigned below. DO NOT WRITE ON ANOTHER TOPIC. AN OFF-TOPIC ESSAY WILL RECEIVE A SCORE OF ZERO.

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

At what moment in your life did you feel most proud? Write an essay about the experience. What separated this event from all the others in your life? What aspects of your personality did it highlight? Your essay should include an introduction paragraph, supporting paragraph, and a conclusion.

Write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your choice or position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

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Compound Sentences

When two simple sentences are very closely related, they are often joined to form one sentence. This sentence has more than one subject and more than one predicate. Such a sentence is called a compound sentence. A compound sentence consists of two or more simple sentences joined together.

The parts of a compound sentence may be joined by a coordinating conjunction (and, or, but) or by a semicolon (;).

Examples:

- The movie was long, **but** it was exciting.
- Riviera won the first match, **and** Johnson won the second.
- The dentist might begin to drill, **or** he might take x-rays first.
- Protestors are gathering near the plant; they oppose nuclear power.

Why are the compound sentences useful? You may realize why as you read this passage. You can see that using short sentences in a row sounds dull and monotonous. Notice how much better the paragraph sounds with compound sentences.

Simple Sentence

The school has a special industrial arts class. The class has a yearly project. It teaches skills. It also makes money. The project is the actual construction of a house. Some schools teach carpentry or electricity. This project includes masonry, plumbing, and plastering. The completed house brings a profit. Students profit too.

Compound Sentence

The school has a special industrial arts class, and the class has yearly project. It teaches skills, and it also makes money. The project is the actual construction of a house. Some schools teach carpentry or electricity, but this class includes masonry, plumbing, and plastering. The completed house brings a profit, and students profit too.

For each sentence, underline the subjects/verbs and circle the conjunction.

Example: The car was full, but they made room for one more.

The car was full, **but** they made room for one more.

1. You must follow the map carefully, or you will miss the turn.
2. Craig dislikes most sportscasters, but he does like Brent Mussberger.

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3. Sandy wanted a vacation, but her boss wouldn't allow it.
4. I will ride in the bike-a-thon, but I need at least ten sponsors.
5. It rained all night, and the baseball game was cancelled.
6. After dinner we all played horseshoes, and then we had a quick swim.
7. Amanda spoke into the microphone, but no one could hear her.
8. The unemployment rate had risen, but the cost of living had gone down.
9. Will you sell your old car, or will you trade it in?
10. The missile disintegrated, and parts landed in the ocean.
11. The football game was scheduled for TV tonight, but the President's speech pre-empted all programs.
12. Lucinda and I went cycling, and my brothers did the yardwork.

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13. Do you like modern dance, or do you prefer classical ballet?

14. Amelia Earhart was a school teacher, but she later became the first woman to fly the Atlantic.

15. Tanya and I were playing checkers, but I like chess better.

16. Babe Ruth was a leading contributor to the game of baseball, but Babe Didrikson contributed to women's participation in all sports.

17. I enjoy all the books of Paul Zindel, but My Darling, My Hamburger is my favorite.

18. The lake froze over, and ice fishermen set up their equipment.

19. Ted entered the room, and the guests yelled "surprise!"

20. Some women change their names after marrying, but others keep their maiden names.

Complex Sentences and Subordinate Clauses

You have learned about simple sentences and compound sentences. There is another kind of sentence that will help you to express ideas: the complex sentence. In order to understand the structure of a complex sentence, you must first know about clauses.

★ A clause is a group of words that contains a verb and its subject.

By this definition, a simple sentence is a clause. It has both verb and a subject.

Examples:

- Kim asked for some privacy.
- Many arguments start that way.

However, it will be easier to understand sentence structures if you think of a clause as part of a sentence. Think of a clause as a group of words within a sentence. What about compound sentences? Do they contain clauses? Yes, they do contain two or more groups of words with a subject and verb.

Examples:

- Janet whacked the ball, and it flew into the bleachers.
- My friends live far away, but we write often.

Any compound sentence can be broken down into its main parts. Each of the clauses in a compound sentence can be a sentence by itself.

Examples:

- Janet whacked the ball. It flew into the bleachers.
- My friends live far away. We write often.

Phrases and Clauses

Can you tell the difference between a phrase and a clause?

Phrases: across the field, in the opening scene

Clauses: after the game began, where you live

A clause has a subject and a verb. A phrase does not.

Subordinate clauses are different from main clauses. Look at these clauses.

Examples:

- When the door opened
- If you disagree

Neither group of words above expresses a complete thought. Neither can stand by itself. Each leaves the reader wondering then what? What happens if you omit the first word in each group of words? Each becomes a complete sentence. You can see then that the words when and if have an important function. Those words are called

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subordinating conjunctions. They subordinate, or make dependent, the groups of words they introduce. The groups of words are called subordinate clauses. Not every subordinate clause begins with a subordinating conjunction, but many do. These are words often used as subordinating conjunctions:

after	so that
although	than
as	though
as if	till
as long as	unless
as though	until
because	whatever
before	when
if	whenever
in order that	where
provided	wherever
since	while

Note: Some of the words in the list above can be used in other ways. They are subordinating conjunctions only when they introduce clauses. Not all subordinate clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions. Subordinate clauses are sometimes introduced by other words:

- that
- who
- whom
- whose
- which
- why
- what
- whoever
- whomever
- how

Now that you know about main clauses and subordinate clauses, you can understand complex sentences. A complex sentence is a sentence that contains one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

Main	Subordinate
Neighbors complained	because the party was noisy.
We ate Doritos	while we waited.
Oakland is the team	that leads the league.

Copy

(a) the main clause, also underline its subject with a wave and its verb with a line.

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(b) the subordinate clause, also underline its subject with a wave and its verb with a line.

21. A stuffed pizza is one that has double layers of ingredients.

main: _____

sub: _____

22. Nobody knows why Sarah seems unhappy.

main: _____

sub: _____

23. Stop and see us when you come back.

main: _____

sub: _____

24. I put the library books in my backpack so that I wouldn't forget them.

main: _____

sub: _____

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25. Where were you when I called for you?

main: _____

sub: _____

26. The water was colder than I thought.

main: _____

sub: _____

27. Karen never speaks up, although she usually knows the answers.

main: _____

sub: _____

28. While we were in Philadelphia, we saw Independence Hall and Betsy Ross's home.

main: _____

sub: _____

29. Although the land around Denver is flat, it is almost a mile high.

main: _____

sub: _____

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30. We can't start the game until the field is drier.

main: _____

sub: _____

31. We conserved water because a drought had cut the supply.

main: _____

sub: _____

32. Chicago is the place where deep-dish pizza was developed.

main: _____

sub: _____

33. Dad insists that Teresa drives too fast.

main: _____

sub: _____

34. Steve felt better after he had talked to his girlfriend.

main: _____

sub: _____

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35. The manager asked Donna if she would work on Tuesday.

main: _____

sub: _____

36. Kevin sleeps during the day because he works at night.

main: _____

sub: _____

37. When business slows down, the factory lays off workers.

main: _____

sub: _____

38. This is the place where the astronauts train.

main: _____

sub: _____

39. Kate snapped a photo as we fell into the pool.

main: _____

sub: _____

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40. Adrienne admits that she is not a good loser.

main: _____

sub: _____

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Word Choice

Choose the best word to complete the following passage.

The Indians of South America once raised many crops that no one else had seen. One of these plants had green leaves and bright red fruit. When Spanish explorers came to this land in the 1500s, they saw the new _____ plant and gathered its seeds.

- 41. (A) strange
- (B) yellow
- (C) orange
- (D) wild
- (E) dusty

The seeds were sent to Spain. People in Spain thought that the plant was pretty. They put it in their _____ gardens.

- 42. (A) messy
- (B) flower
- (C) empty
- (D) food
- (E) vegetable

These plants grew next to roses, daisies, and other blooming plants. The Spanish didn't consider them food plants at all. Soon people in other countries began to grow this plant, too. Each time the plant found a new home, it also found a new _____.

- 43. (A) seed
- (B) use
- (C) name
- (D) owner
- (E) farm

In Spain, it had been called the *tomate*. In Italy, the fruit was called "apple of gold" even though it was bright red. In France, it was _____ as the "apple of love.

- 44. (A) tested
- (B) used
- (C) made
- (D) found
- (E) known

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For the next 300 years, people called tomatoes “love apples” They put the pretty plants in pots and set them on their tables. But no one ate the fruit. People thought that love apples were _____.

- 45. (A) fun
- (B) ripe
- (C) delicious
- (D) poison
- (E) tasty

In fact, love apples were sometimes thrown to wolves to kill the animals. That’s why the fruit is also called “wolf peaches.” Very slowly, people learned that tomatoes were not only safe to eat, but delicious. People usually think of tomatoes as _____.

- 46. (A) vegetables
- (B) poison
- (C) flowers
- (D) soups
- (E) juice

That’s because they are eaten like lettuce and onions. But tomatoes are actually a fruit. There are more than 4,000 _____ of tomatoes.

- 47. (A) plants
- (B) boxes
- (C) kinds
- (D) cans
- (E) colors

Taken together, these types add up to about 60 million tons of tomatoes grown each year. That makes the tomato one of the most popular foods in the world.

Answer Key

Compound Sentences

- You must follow the map carefully, or you will miss the turn.
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- I will ride in the bike-a-thon, but I need at least ten sponsors.
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- Some women change their names after marrying, but others keep their maiden names.

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40. main: Adrienne admits
sub: that she is not a good loser.

Word Choice

41. D
42. B
43. C
44. E
45. D
46. A
47. C