

Sentence Combining: Adding Modifiers

Adjectives and adjective phrases give details about persons, places, and things. Adding these modifiers makes your writing more interesting. However, avoid using a second sentence just to include a modifier. Combine the sentences instead. Place an adjective before the noun it modifies. Place an adjective phrase after the noun it modifies.

Here are some examples of combining sentences to add modifiers:

Adding an adjective:

Neil built a shed for his tools.

The shed was large.

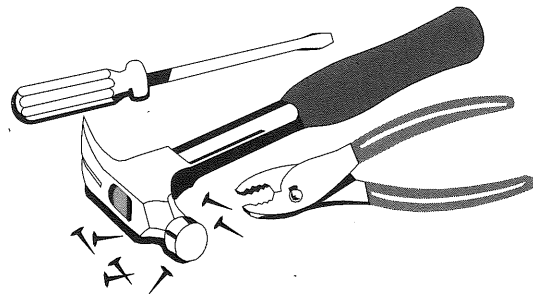
Neil built a large shed for his tools.

Adding an adjective phrase:

These boots are too small for me.

The boots are in my closet.

These boots in my closet are too small for me.



Read each pair of sentences. In the second sentence, underline the noun that is modified. Underline the same noun in the first sentence. Then combine the sentences, adding the modifier to the first sentence.

- Ralph's car stopped in the middle of the street. His car is old.

- As a hobby, the Greenes collect masks. The masks are from Africa.

- The manager gave a bonus to each worker. The bonus was small.

- That opal ring is beautiful. The ring is in the jewelry case.

- Leslie rented a summer cottage. The cottage is near the lake.

B Practice

Adding adverbs and adverb phrases can improve and strengthen your writing. Adverbs modify verbs, telling *how*, *when*, *where*, and *why* an action occurs. They also modify adjectives or other adverbs. When possible, place an adverb or adverb phrase in the same sentence as the word it modifies.

Adding an adverb:

My daughter opened her birthday present.

She did so eagerly.

My daughter eagerly opened her birthday present.

Adding an adverb phrase:

Hank hauls building materials.

He takes them to the new mall.

Hank hauls building materials to the new mall.

Each sentence in Column B combines one of the sentence pairs in Column A. On the line in Column A, write the number of the matching sentence in Column B.

Column A

1. The quarterback clutched the football. He held the ball tightly.

2. Jets landed at the busy airport. They came in every ten minutes. _____
3. Clarice delivers packages and mail. She travels throughout the city.

4. We read the architect's blueprints. We did this before we started the job.

5. Emilio removed the old paint from the chair. He worked swiftly. _____
6. A high wall surrounded the ancient city. The wall was very high. _____

Column B

- A Emilio swiftly removed the old paint from the chair.
- B We read the architect's blueprints before we started the job.
- C Jets landed at the busy airport every ten minutes.
- D The quarterback tightly clutched the football.
- E Clarice delivers packages and mail throughout the city.
- F A very high wall surrounded the ancient city.