

Sentence Revision

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If you know a variety of ways to structure sentences and if you develop the habit of revising sentences to clarify meaning, then you should be able to develop greater control over your writing.

Each section of this program presents a single technique for structuring sentences. In each section, you will first read a brief explanation of how the technique can be used to combine or tighten sentences. Then you will practice the technique in exercises and short papers.

Two symbols will be used in the program to help indicate the relationship between a full sentence and its parts.

A **full sentence** will be represented by a box:

Example: Susan went to the hospital.

A **dependent word group** (a group of related words that cannot be understood as a full sentence) will be represented by a line: _____

Example: _____ Because Susan felt sick.

Together, these two symbols can be used to quickly show the structure of a combined sentence:

_____,
Because Susan felt sick, she went to the hospital.

Susan went to the hospital because she felt sick.

Susan, because she felt sick, went to the hospital.

As you can see, dependent word groups can occur at the beginning, middle, or end of a full sentence.