

3RD EXAMINATION



**Lloyd Gramadeg
Forensic Grammarian**

I. SENTENCES

Find the complete subject and underline it once; that is, underline the subject plus associated modifiers. Find the complete predicate and underline it twice; that is, underline the main verb plus auxiliary verbs plus objects or complements plus associated modifiers. If you are uncertain whether an introductory phrase or clause modifies the remainder of the sentence or just the predicate alone, underline the phrase or clause twice. Every part of the sentence should be underlined one way or another (unless there is an interjection). 1 pt. each

1. Listening to grammatical fanatics as they droned on and on about the decline of the

English language always gave Lloyd Gramadeg a bad headache.

2. Lady Williams, the elderly, refined woman sitting in front of him, had made opening

complaints about *I* versus *me* and now had settled to the real business at hand.

3. “I would like to inquire about your availability for grammatical training among my

workers.”

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4. Even though he was pretty sure that he knew the answer, Lloyd, whom others sometimes accused of being passive aggressive and who really did have a very bad headache, asked “How many employees do you have?”

II. ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

Identify the voice of the main verb in each sentence below, then rewrite the paragraph reversing the voice used in each sentence. You do not have to use every word in your revised sentences, but the general sense of the original main clause must remain. Just change the voice. 1 pt. each

“Because if you have less than three, you should have said *between*.” A short exhalation of breath showed that Lady Williams was offended. The conversation was quickly shifted. “Can you explain the proper use of *good* versus *well*?” That old chestnut thought Lloyd, smiling as he formulated his answer. *This last one is tricky, careful.*

5) Voice of 1st _____

6) Voice of 2nd _____

7) Voice of 3rd _____

8) Voice of 4th _____

9) Voice of 5th _____

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“Because if you have less than three, you should have said *between*.” A short exhalation of breath showed that Lady Williams was offended. The conversation was quickly shifted. “Can you explain the proper use of *good* versus *well*?” That old chestnut thought Lloyd, smiling as he formulated his answer.

10) _____

11) _____

12) _____

13) _____

14) _____

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III. PREPOSITIONS AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Place parentheses around all prepositional phrases in the following sentences. Draw arrow(s) to the word(s) each phrase modifies. 2 pt. each

15) With clear detail, Lloyd explained that either word could be found in proper usage by the best grammarians.

16) *Well* is an adverb in the sentence “I am well”; and the common training among generations of school children has been to view this as correct usage.

For 1 extra point explain the grammatical function of the clause “I am well” within the wider clause.

17) But *good* is an adjective in the similar construction “I am good”; and to any trained grammarian it is easily identified as a predicate adjective modifying the subject.

18) It is true that *well* suggests a connotation of health, so when someone is clearly asking about whether you are sick or not, *well* is the better usage; but if someone is making friendly conversation and you are feeling “top of the morning,” *good* is a perfectly acceptable and grammatically correct answer for most occasions.

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IV. VERB OBJECTS & COMPLEMENTS

Identify the verb object(s) and complement(s) in the following sentences by underlining and writing DO, IO or OC or PA or PN above the appropriate word. If there are verbals or verbal phrases functioning as verb objects or complements, identify them as noted above. If there is more than one clause in a sentence, identify the verb objects and complements in each clause. If dependent clauses function as verb objects or complements, identify them appropriately. Stay alert; most of these sentences are tricky. 2 pt. each

19) Smiling wryly, Lloyd watched Lady W. stride from his office in a considerable huff.

20) Though his social graces were weak, he knew that his work ethic was strong.

21) He stood up and pulled a legal brief that needed attention from the top drawer of a file cabinet which stood nearby.

22) The legal firm of Kowalski, Larkin, & Zimmer had retained him, asking that he render an opinion concerning a disputed portion of an unusual insurance policy.

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23) First, he read the note from Robert Kowalski, who was senior partner at the firm and Lloyd's boyhood friend.

24) "Our firm is representing the beneficiaries who are the children of the deceased policy holder."

25) "That policy holder, Tad Lightford, had taken out a rather unique piece of insurance that stipulated a payout in the slim chance of a shark attack that causes death in a fresh water lake."

26) Before he had finished reading the note, Lloyd gave his memory a jog and remembered six-month-old headlines that described a terrible accident involving an aquarium delivery gone wrong and a very old bather out at Sunny Side Lake.

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27) As though it were a daily occurrence, which it was, Lloyd picked up the brief legal document and began to parse its contents.

28) “Upon accidental death of the insured caused by shark attack in a body of fresh water, the beneficiaries will be paid an annuity worth \$50,000 for each year of life, and this agreement shall admit no modification other than the phrasing hereby agreed to.”

29) Lloyd glanced at the actuarial report and saw that Tad had been ninety-seven when the shark ate him.

30) That meant that the insurance payout was four million eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

31) The lawyers for the insurance company wanted no part of that and had suggested a novel grammatical reading of the policy.

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32. They had retained Art Magicam, a grammarian of some repute, though Lloyd believed his skills were slippery at best.

For 2 extra points identify the clause “though Lloyd believed his skills were slippery at best” as subordinate or relative and explain its grammatical function.

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V. VERBALS & VERBAL PHRASES

Identify the type of verbal(s) or verbal phrase(s) underlined or italicized in the following sentences. Clearly identify each as its appropriate verbal or verbal phrase. 1 pt. each

33) Magicam had given a literal reading to the policy, advising the insurers as follows.

34) To understand this novel reading, one had to focus upon the final clause of the agreement: “this agreement shall admit no modification other than the phrasing hereby agreed to.”

1 bonus point if you correct the phrasing mark-up error in sentence 34.

35) Stipulating that “\$50,000” modified “worth” and that “each” modified “year,” and stating that the agreement allowed no “grammatical” modification other than in phrases, Magicam made his case.

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36) This way of interpreting the document made it really mean the *following*.

Note the two phrases plus the verbal in bold italics.

In the sentences below, underline and identify all verbals and verbal phrases. Clearly identify each as a verbal or verbal phrase. SHOW OR TELL HOW EACH FUNCTIONS. 2 pt. each

37) “The beneficiaries will be given an annuity worth for year of life.”

38) Smiling at Magicam’s folly, Lloyd paused before reading the rest of the argument.

39) “With all single modifying words deleted, the only difficulty remaining in the resulting sentence resides in the meaning of *year*.”

40) “Obviously, *year* as a singular noun, and admitting no ambiguity, is equivalent to *a year* or *one year*.”

41) “Since no payment by year is assigned to this corrected agreement, we the said insurers state that Tadd Lightford, having signed this policy with the clear intention to benefit his family, should be paid the equivalent of his final year’s income.” *Tricky*

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42) Realizing the saddening but calculated direction of Magicam and the insurers' logic, Lloyd paged to the back of another stack of documents, considered laughing at what he found, and calculated that the final year's income of the retired sail maker was a demoralizing \$174.

this sentence is worth four points

VI. CLAUSES

Identify the dependent clause(s) underlined in the following sentences (relative or subordinate) and THEN DESCRIBE THE FUNCTION OF EACH WITHIN THE SENTENCE, for example as subject, direct object, indirect object, adjective, adverb, etc. 1 pt. each

43) After he had read Magicam's brief twice through, Lloyd scratched a few notes on a notepad and began to construct his rebutal.

IDENTIFY THE CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

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44) He could think of two grammatical analyses that easily countered the argument.

IDENTIFY THE CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

45) First, he could argue that “worth” is a preposition and as such must have an object; if this were true, the \$50,000 would be that object, not some modifier and would remain the price noted in the policy.

IDENTIFY THE FIRST CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

IDENTIFY THE SECOND CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

46) If, on the other hand, he accepted Magicam’s logic about not being able to use modifiers and if he also agreed with the editors of the American Heritage Dictionary, then Lloyd noted that, in fact, worth is adjectival, not \$50,000.

IDENTIFY THE CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

IDENTIFY THE SECOND CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

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47) Under this scenario, \$50,000 would remain in the policy as complement to annuity: “the beneficiaries will be paid an annuity \$50,000.”

IDENTIFY THE FIRST CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

For 1 extra point describe how the underlined clause in sentence 47 differs from the other clauses in this segment of the examination.

*Identify any dependent clause(s) in the following sentences as relative or subordinate. Place them in brackets and then **DESCRIBE THE FUNCTION OF EACH**, for example as subject, direct object, indirect object, adjective, adverb, etc. The number of lines below each sentence accurately signals the number of dependent clauses that you should find. 2 pt. each*

48) Second, *each*, which Magicam had identified as an adjective in the prepositional phrase *for each year*, was nothing of the sort, but rather a pronoun or determiner.

IDENTIFY THE FIRST CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

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49) And because *year* in that same phrase was not a modifier either, but a noun complement, the entire phrase was necessary despite how Magicam might argue.

IDENTIFY THE FIRST CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

IDENTIFY THE SECOND CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

50) Although he had already undermined Magicam’s arguments to his (and his law firm’s) satisfaction, Lloyd could not resist commenting on the inelegance of a sentence which read, “The beneficiaries will be given an annuity worth for year of life.”

IDENTIFY THE CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

IDENTIFY THE SECOND CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

FOR AN EXTRA 2 POINTS, IDENTIFY THE FINAL CLAUSE:

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

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51) Grammar was a rough game when money was involved.

IDENTIFY THE CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

52) Lloyd’s share of a winning verdict was a cool one percent, which translated to \$48,500.

IDENTIFY THE CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

53) Even if the case was lost, he would be paid his retainer fee of \$300 an hour, because the firm of Kowalski, Larkin & Zimmer needed his expertise; either way he would make sure he had food on the table tonight.

IDENTIFY THE FIRST CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

IDENTIFY THE SECOND CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

(see next page; there are 3 clauses)

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IDENTIFY THE THIRD CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

54) Unless he got very lucky or the case settled out of court, he would have to wait till the end of the week at least to learn the verdict, whichever way it turned out.

IDENTIFY THE FIRST CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

IDENTIFY THE SECOND CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

55. He didn't mind because he liked Boar's Head Pub, where, as it turned out, the beer was cheap and the conversation quite good.

IDENTIFY THE FIRST CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

IDENTIFY THE SECOND CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

IDENTIFY THE THIRD CLAUSE: _____

NAME OR DESCRIBE ITS FUNCTION: _____

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Circle the correct pronoun. 1 pt. each

56) At the bar, Lloyd struck up a familiar conversation with the barman **who/whom** he thought was more than a decent hand at grammatical parsing.

57) “**Who/whom** did you champion today?” asked Frank, **who/whom** stood behind the bar rubbing spots from the beer mugs.

58) “A ninety-seven year old sail maker **who/whom** a shark ate, but **who/whom** is going to make nearly 5 million for his bad luck.”

VII. EVERYTHING

In the following sentences, answer the questions posed below. 2 pt. each

59) “Well, looks like you’re still the hot shot forensic grammarian, then.”

a. Identify the subject of the main clause in sentence 59; b. identify the part of speech of “like”; how does it function?

a. _____

b. _____

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60) “Cut the crap, Frank,” replied Lloyd; “Throw me a good sentence.”

a. Describe the function of the noun, “Frank”; b. In what way does “Cut the crap” function with “replied Lloyd” in sentence 60?

a. _____

b. _____

61) Frank gazed thoughtfully down the length and breadth of the bar and then spoke.

Identify the part of speech of “breadth” and explain how it functions in sentence 61.

62) “The barman was given a lovely, fat tip.”

Explain how “lovely” functions in sentence 62.

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63) “Ah, the mysterious use of a direct object with a passive voice verb.”

a. Explain what Lloyd is talking about in sentence 63; b: turn sentence 62 to the opposite voice.

a. _____

b. [Sentence 62; opposite voice] _____

64) “A happy ending,” said the barman, “if we can find that generous tipper.”

Turn sentence 64 into the opposite voice.

65) There was a quiet pause throughout the bar.

Underline the complete subject in sentence 65.

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66) “Here you go,” said Lloyd, draining his beer, standing, then flipping the barman a fifty; “Keep studying.”

a. Identify the part of speech and function of “here” in the first clause in sentence 66; b. identify and explain the function of “flipping.”

a. _____

b. _____

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Extra Credit

Having decided that he had had enough work *and* beer for the day, Lloyd walked from Second Avenue to Front Street, which was bustling at six-thirty on a Tuesday evening, even though snow had begun to fall and the wind, which whistled along the river, was quite chilly. Squashing Magicam once again was not quite as exciting as last month’s case of “Murder by Pseudo Subject,” but it was more lucrative for sure.

In the sentence above, place brackets around every dependent clause. If you see anything interesting, comment below. 4 points.
