

HYPHENS, DASHES, AND SAUSAGE

*Recognizing sentence parts*

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*Please find the simple subject and underline it once; underline only the significant subject word or words. Also, find the simple verb and underline it twice; underline only the main verb and its helping verbs.*

1) Joad, the vexatious ghost of a particularly lively potato gnome, had finally found a campus issue to occupy his spritely attention.

2) Like mushrooms in autumn, elaborate and wordy signs were appearing all over campus.

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*Find the complete subject and underline it once; underline the subject plus any modifiers. Find the complete predicate and underline it twice; underline the main verb plus helpers plus objects or complements plus any associated modifiers. Every part of the sentence should be underlined one way or another (unless there is an interjection). If a word or phrase washes adverbially across the entire sentence, underline that phrase twice.*

3) In life, Joad the gnome had fancied himself a literate fellow.

4) The punctuation of short epigrams and signs was a particular passion of his.

5) What right did the current sign makers have to use such odd punctuation?

*tricky, tricky*

***Focusing on Verbs***

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*Tell whether the verbs in the following sentences are transitive or intransitive. If a sentence has a dependent clause (marked in square brackets) tell whether the verb of that clause is transitive or intransitive.*

6) Joad viewed the signs with a critical eye and found all too many hyphens and dashes.

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7) Part of the problem was the inability to know [whether the short lines were dashes or hyphens]. *“to know” is an infinitive, not a verb; ignore it here*

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8) In his opinion, the signs needed revision, but could he trust his own judgment?

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*Identify whether the main verb in the following sentences is in the active or passive voice. Rewrite the sentence using the opposite voice. You do not have to use all of the words in the original sentence, but the meaning must remain substantially unchanged.*

9) Accordingly, Johnny Boy the dog fox was visited by Joad.

Voice: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10) Johnny Boy, the product of fifty generations of selective breeding, adored two things, punctuation and rock 'n roll.

Voice: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Prepositional Phrases*

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*Place parentheses around the prepositional phrases in the following sentences.*

11) His studies of Dylan, Partridge, Lennon, and Truss had crystalized his thinking about mechanics and about life.

12) In his personal philosophy, less was more in nearly every aspect of punctuation; yet [as it pertained to rock 'n roll], more was better.

13) It is not surprising then [that Johnny Boy the dog fox and Joad the ghostly gnome fell into agreement about the on-campus signs].

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*Please draw arrows that show what other word(s) in each sentence are modified by the identified prepositional phrases.*

14) (In the dead) (of night), the two friends moved stealthily (across the quiet campus).

15) Joad walked (under a ladder) [that he was levitating (with his ghostly powers)]; Johnny Boy was carrying half (of a hole-punch) sharpened (at one end).

***Objects and Complements***

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*Underline and identify any direct objects (DO), indirect objects (IO) or object complements (OC) in the following sentences. If there is more than one clause in a sentence, find these objects in each of the clauses.*

16) At the first sign, Joad levitated the ladder into position and motioned vigorously.

17) “Shall I take down the whole sign or do you want selective revision?”

18) Joad gave Johnny B. a comical look and pointed toward the hyphens.

19) “Take those darn things down, and [while you are at it], save me some of the fun.”

20) Johnny Boy removed the superfluous hyphens, one after another; and Joad realized [that he should give Johnny Boy the nickname Dash].

An extra point if this is done correctly.

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*Underline and identify any predicate nouns (PN) and/or predicate adjectives (PA) in the following sentences. If there is more than one clause in a sentence, find these complements in each of the clauses.*

21) The next day, important high-level functionaries at the college were moderately busy and deeply unhappy.

22) Who would have the temerity to alter their beloved signs?

*Underline and identify any direct objects (DO), indirect objects (IO), object complements (OC), predicate nouns (PN) and/or predicate adjectives (PA) in the following sentences. If there is more than one clause in a sentence, find these objects and complements in each of the clauses.*

23) “Without the hyphen-thingies the signs make no sense!”

24) “‘Dean-School’ has been altered to ‘Dean School’ on seventy-three separate signs!!”

25) “Students and alums and any off-campus visitor will be confused by this state of affairs!!!”

26) “In my-large-and-ample career as functionary, so-many hyphens have never been stolen; this is a mechanical travesty – this is a scandal of authoritative proportions – I demand from every functionary in this room a moment of perfunctory silence.”

27) Meanwhile, Joad and Johnny B. were giving their collection of ill-gotten hyphens serious thought.

28) “Johnny Boy, please hand me that hyphen; I ask you kindly.”

29) Johnny Boy held one point in his hand and asked [whether it was a dash].

An extra point if this is done correctly.

30) This carried the two into a long discourse upon the difference between hyphens and dashes; it also gave them motive for a discussion about the Dean family.

31) “Who are the Dean family? They have given quite generously to our university with so many Dean schools!”



*Case*

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*Circle the appropriate case of the pronouns in question.*

32) Johnny Boy, [**who/whom** people perceived of as a reflective dog fox] replied simply, “Jimmy Dean.”

33) “James Dean the actor?” replied Joad, [**who/whom** was perplexed by this] believing that James Dean had died without issue.

34) “No, no,” replied Johnny; it is not **he/him** [to **who/whom** I refer] but the sausage family. *Mark two answers.*

35) The two friends [**who/whom** had enjoyed their adventure immensely] then proceeded to design a sign in celebration of hyphens, dashes, and sausage, fashioned from their newly-acquired seventy-three points of punctuation.