

A TRUE STORY

(MORE WORRIED ABOUT GRAMMAR IDENTIFICATION THAN THE PUNCTUATION)

1) When we finally emerged onto Bryson Lake the light was nearly gone.

Adverbial subordinate clause (bracketed over the first part)
S (above 'When'), *V* (above 'emerged'), *prep phrase* (above 'onto Bryson Lake'), *S* (above 'the light'), *V* (above 'was nearly gone').
 A comma of choice? (arrow pointing to the comma)

2) A nearly full moon was (on the rise).

S (above 'A nearly full moon'), *V* (above 'was'), *prep phrase* (above 'on the rise').

3) Listening to the roar of the motor, feeling the cool spray of the water and the warm night breeze, and watching as our celestial nightlight guided us to camp, we rode the motorboat home.

S (above 'Listening...'), *DO* (above 'we'), *S* (above 'we rode...').
subordinate clause (bracketed over the participial phrase)
subject complement (above 'we')
 (This sort of sentence is affectionately known as a crowd pleaser.)
 The beauty opens w/ triple participial phrase (note on the right)

4) It was nearly an hour-long trip (with Chris at the helm.)

S (above 'It'), *V* (above 'was'), *subject complement* (above 'nearly an hour-long trip'), *prepositional phrases* (above 'with Chris at the helm').
 "WAS" is a linking verb. LVs take subject complements, NOT direct objects (note on the right)

5) (Near the end) Todd and I were watching closely (for the shrub shoal) that we had seen earlier (in the day.)

prepositional phrase (above 'Near the end'), *S* (above 'Todd and I'), *V* (above 'were watching'), *prepositional phrase* (above 'for the shrub shoal'), *Relative clause modifying "shoal"* (above 'that we had seen earlier (in the day)').

6) We figured we were close and would see it (in the moonlight).

S (above 'We'), *V* (above 'figured'), *S* (above 'we'), *LV* (above 'were'), *SC* (above 'close and would see it'), *V* (above 'would see'), *DO* (above 'it').
 This is a subordinate clause that has omitted its opening "that." It is the Direct object of "figured." (note below)

7) Finally, I motioned with my hand for Chris to slow down and yelled over the motor. "The shoal is near!"

Adverb S verb prepositional phrase
 prepositional phrase with an infinitive phrase "Chris to slow down" as object of the preposition - tricky.
 prop phrase S verb
 Independent clause in direct dialogue acting as the direct object of the verb "yelled."

8) Chris shook his head, sped up, and immediately hit the shoal. "The Dummy!"

S V DO V S DO

9) The motor was still running after the encounter, but it was running a bit rough, so we were relieved when we saw a roaring campfire that marked our cabin.

S V S V DO S V
 This is a subordinate clause; adverbial.
 This is an adjectival relative clause

10) We pulled up to the dock, got out, and joined Steve and Ted at "happy after dinner and getting late" hour.

S V V DO DO
 A lovely prepositional phrase.