

## Pangur Ban

### 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). All sentences are worth 2 points except where noted.*

1. A slender, wizened cat, a white cat of indeterminant age, warily approached the modern-looking house.
2. Stepping gingerly on the heated and patterned cement walk way and eying the watering nozzles for the lawn, it turned its head this way and that.
3. In the deepening eve, at the gloaming, the cat appeared to be watching attentively [AS young trick or treaters, several houses away, darted from door to door].

*ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE*

*Identify the voice of the verb in the following sentences; then rewrite the paragraph reversing the voice in each sentence. While you do not have to use each word in your revised sentences, the general sense of the original must remain. Just change the voice.*

Suddenly, the front door was opened. A young girl, perhaps twelve years old, appeared. Holding the door open, giving an expectant smile, she beckoned the cat into the vestibule of the very fashionable home. Excitedly, she showed the cat a catnip-filled play toy.

4. Voice of 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

5. Voice of 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

6. Voice of 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

7. Voice of 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_  
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10. \_\_\_\_\_  
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11. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*PREPOSITIONS AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES*

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

Standing in blue jeans and, curiously, in a pair of Jimmy Choos, she swept open an inner door and ushered the cat into the kitchen. Dropping the play toy and reaching beneath a granite topped cupboard near the front window, the young girl retrieved a can of cat food, Friskies Meaty Bits Gourmet Grill in Gravy, and popped the top. “Here you go, Whitey,” she said, “and here is some water from the faucet.” Standing carefully on the pads of its feet, the cat sniffed the linoleum flooring, twitched at the running water, and turned its nose skeptically toward the open container of meat paste.

*Place parentheses around all prepositional phrases in the following sentences and draw an arrow to the word(s) that each phrase modifies.*

16. I have never hunted a place like this, thought the cat; I have arrived at a very strange place.

17. Grain bins near the monastery or stone cellars by the kitchens are my plains of combat.

*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 (or however you can best id the function). 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. Note that subordinate conjunctions if present have been placed in small caps; for this test it is safe to ignore them.*

18. Being in this abode perplexes me.

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19. It was not two moments ago [THAT I was sitting in the alcove, curled up, half waking, half drowsing].

20. The Monk was scratching the vellum sheets as usual, muttering strange words [AS he gave that scratching his utmost attention]. *Tricky*

21. Sleeping in the corner, the cat didn't always pay attention to the Monk, but this time, the Monk was especially animated.

22. He was speaking his language, Irish, and he was waving his arms and chanting.

23. The cat had seen this before; it was some sort of incantation.

24. The Monk spoke words repetitively and with growing excitement; he seemed certain about something.

25. The cat observed and tilted his head as the Monk waved and chanted toward a frantic crescendo.

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26. The next moment, the cat was here, [wherever here was]. *Tricky, 1 pt extra if correct.*
27. The girl had placed the smelly meat paste on a plate and pushed the thing toward the cat.
28. “Don’t you want food, Whitey?”

*PHRASES*

*Identify the type of verbal(s) or verbal phrase(s) underlined, italicized, and/or placed in small caps in the following sentences. You don’t have to explain their function – just identify them. Please take care to identify verbals as phrases where appropriate.*

29. Recognizing the girl’s tone as friendly, the cat, twitching its tail, moved to rub against her leg.
30. [WHEN the girl saw the cat approach,] she knelt and began to scratch under its chin.
31. Purring [AS she scratched and then pet him], the cat, [whose name was not Whitey, but Pangur Ban], thought back to the scratching of the Monk’s worn quill under his chin [as they shared friendly moments].

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*Underline and then identify all verbals and verbal phrases. Then tell how each functions by labeling its function or drawing an arrow to the word(s) that it modifies.*

32. Waving her arm, the girl, [whose name was Emer], ran from room to room showing Pangur Ban marvels [that perplexed him]. *Two extra points if completely correct.*

33. In a large central room, the living room, he saw two birds hunched on a cold perch amidst the worst blizzard [THAT he had ever seen].

34. That seemed to be strange; earlier, the outdoors had been damp, but not snowy, blizzardy or wind-bitten, and this accessorized room was warm. *Tricky*

35. Also perplexing was the fact [THAT someone was talking about the “bedraggled birds of the Artic,” but no one was to be seen].

36. In a far off room, turning the corner to a stairway downwards, sat a rectangular box filled with clumpy, sandy, sweet-smelling dirt.

37. Pointing toward it, Emer declared, “Sharing the litterbox with Joules will be fun to do; you’ll like Joules.”

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38. At that moment, and to the surprise of Pangur, up the stairs walked another cat, all black except for a bib of white under its chin.

*Below, identify the type of phrases underlined or italicized (name them). Then tell how each functions by labeling its function or drawing an arrow to the word(s) that it modifies. There may be several examples in each sentence. Review each carefully.*

39. Noticing Pangur Ban, Joules did a little jump; to see another cat in the house was without precedent.

40. Sitting at the side window and watching the outside world, Joules had of course seen other cats, along with squirrels, birds, and hated dogs, but never could he remember seeing a feline compatriot in the house.

41. Emer, for her part, watched cats with care and spoke soothing words to both.

*Identify both the underlined and the italicized phrases.*

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*Case*

*Choose the correct pronoun in the sentences below. Make sure to identify all choices that have been bolded.*

42. “**Who / whom** can know, she said, [**who / whom** one will meet on Halloween Eve?]”

43. “At that season, the veil is thin, and mysterious occurrences take place between **he / him** [who walks abroad] and the haints [**who / whom** surround **he / him**].”

44. Pangur Ban, [**who / whom** had heard plenty such speeches from the Monk], knew her words carried the truth of word magic.

*SOMETHING IS WRONG*

*In terms of rule-based grammar explain the way(s) that the following sentences are incorrect.*

45. He thinking back to the last time he had seen the Monk, and heard his incantatory words.

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46. The Monk had been speaking about the veil and of times past and present, and he had invoked the old ones to demonstrate their power and to have revealed a time of parallel difficulties to his own.

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47. As the Monk had spoken, he had waved his arm with particular emphasis toward Pangur [whom felt a sudden jolt and then . . . ].

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48. And then the cat was outside dusk with those strange young peasants running about.

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49. As Pangur was processing these cat thoughts, a sudden pounding was heard, and, as Joules jumped, Emer skipped toward the front door.

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50. Opening the door, she looked out see an old man in a Monk’s costume, no tricker treater, and he spoke, “Have you seen a lost, white cat?”

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*Extra Credit*

*For 7 points, underline and identify all verbals and/or verbal phrases in the poem below.*

**Pangur Ban**

Pangur Ban and I  
each of us plies a special trade;  
he pursues the hunt  
while I employ the pen.

Far from worldly fame  
I seek repose  
in thoughtful study;  
not envious is Pangur Ban;  
he delights in his nimble game.

Though we are two alone  
neither one grows bored  
attending to our tasks;  
we have unlimited sport,  
plentiful opportunities  
for accuracy and skill.

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It is understood  
by feats of valor Pangur Ban  
in time will catch his prey;  
Less sure, I catch at phrases,  
seek the intricate paths  
that higher thoughts traverse.

His eye, glancing and attentive,  
he points against the corner wall:  
my eye weak though willing  
inclines toward obscured truth.

His is a joyous speed,  
pouncing upon the mouse;  
Mine a fleeting flash of wit,  
grasping the hard idea.

Contented with our lives  
we are always thus;  
neither hinders the other:  
each gains pleasure through his art.

Pangur Ban is master of the task  
he performs each day;  
I meditate upon existence,  
seek design through well-chosen words.

“Pangur Ban” is a poem in Old Irish, written in the margins of a Latin manuscript and dating from the 800s. In the poem, a monk is apparently describing his work and that of his companion a white cat. Adapted from *Thesaurus Paleohibernicus*, edited and translated by Whitley Stokes, Cambridge, 1903, pp. 293-94; modernized by Kinsella.