

2nd examination answers

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> Passive
- 5. Voice of 2<sup>nd</sup> No voice
- 6. Voice of 3<sup>rd</sup> Active
- 7. Voice of 4<sup>th</sup> Active

An interesting sentence. Watch what happens to the indirect object, "cat," when the verb is turned to the passive voice below.

- 8. The young girl suddenly open the front door.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10. The cat was beckoned into the vestibule of the very fashionable home by her.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11. A catnip-filled play toy was shown to the cat by her.  
\_\_\_\_\_

*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 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. <sup>S</sup> Being in this abode <sup>AV DO</sup> perplexes me.  
Being in this abode  
Gerund phrase  
as subject

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19. It <sup>LV</sup> was not two moments ago [THAT <sup>PN</sup> I was sitting (in the alcove) curled up, half waking, half drowsing].

This appears to be a participial phrase modifying the subject. Many of you treated it as a second verb, "was muttering," and as such labeled "words" as a direct object. That was reasonable, if perhaps not the best analysis.

20. The Monk <sup>AV</sup> was scratching the vellum sheets as usual, muttering strange words [AS <sup>AV</sup> he gave <sup>IO</sup> that scratching <sup>DO</sup> 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.

"was animated" is an intransitive action verb. Many of you analyzed this as a linking verb with "animated" as a participle acting as predicate adjective. That was a solid analysis, too.

22. He <sup>AV</sup> was speaking <sup>DO</sup> his language, Irish, and he <sup>AV</sup> was waving <sup>DO</sup> his arms and chanting <sup>AV</sup>.

Some of you saw "chanting" as a gerund and labeled it as a direct object. It is a second action verb relying on "was" from the first verb to also serve as its helper. The monk was not waving his chanting, just his arms.

23. The cat <sup>DO</sup> had seen <sup>LV</sup> this before; it was some <sup>PN</sup> sort of incantation.

24. The Monk <sup>AV</sup> spoke <sup>DO</sup> words repetitively and with growing excitement; he <sup>LV</sup> seemed <sup>PA</sup> certain about something.

25. The cat <sup>AV</sup> observed and tilted <sup>AV</sup> his head as <sup>DO</sup> the Monk <sup>AV</sup> waved and chanted toward a frantic crescendo.

This sentence calls for dictionary work. "Here" can be an adverb or a noun. In the first clause it is an adverb, and in the second it is a noun. "Wherever" can be an adverb or a subordinate conjunction, but in this second clause it is an adverb. Very difficult to see unless you consult a dictionary and think carefully about it. I thought a few answers deserved credit. If you described "here" and "wherever" as predicate nouns, that was fine.

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26. The next moment, the cat was here, [wherever here was]. *Tricky, 1 pt extra if correct.*

*Handwritten annotations: "S LV" above "here" and "wherever here"; arrows pointing from the second "S LV" to the first "here" and to the "wherever here" phrase.*

27. The girl had placed the smelly meat paste on a plate and pushed the thing toward the cat.

*Handwritten annotations: "AV" above "girl"; "DO" above "paste"; "DO" above "thing".*

28. "Don't you want food, Whitey?"

*Handwritten annotations: "AC" above "Don't you want"; "DO" above "Whitey?".*

This sentence is in direct address. "Whitey" is that direct address. If you want to think of it as a subject or as an appositive, OK.

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.

*Handwritten annotations: "Participial phrase" above "Recognizing the girl's tone as friendly"; "Participial phrase" above "twitching its tail"; "Infinitive phrase" below "to rub against her leg".*

30. [WHEN the girl saw the cat approach,] she knelt and began to scratch under its chin.

*Handwritten annotations: "Infinitive phrase is direct direct" above "the cat approach"; "Infinitive phrase is direct object" above "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.

*Handwritten annotations: "Participial phrase" above "Purring [AS she scratched and then pet him]"; "Gerund" above "scratching"; "Participle" above "worn"; "AV" above "as"; "DO" above "shared".*

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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].

Participial phrase (pointing to "Waving her arm")  
Participial phrase (pointing to "showing Pangur Ban marvels")  
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].

Gerund (pointing to "living room")  
Participial phrase (pointing to "hunched on a cold perch")

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.

Infinitive phrase, adverbial or adjectival (pointing to "That seemed to be strange")  
Participle (pointing to "blizzardy")  
Participle (pointing to "wind-bitten")  
Tricky

Participle or gerund depending on your analysis. Some saw this as a predicate adjective, some as the subject of the clause.

Participle, from a now generally obsolete verb form

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

Infinitive as predicate adjective. This is one infinitive with helping verb.

Participial phrase. This is tricky, but I think it is modifying the litter box.

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

Participial phrase (pointing to "turning the corner")  
Participle (pointing to "smelling")

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

Participial phrase (pointing to "Pointing toward it")  
Gerund phrase as subject (pointing to "Sharing the litterbox with Joules")  
PA (pointing to "will be fun to do")

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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. *No verbals or verbal phrases in this sentence.*

*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.

*Participial phrase* (arrow from Noticing Pangur Ban to Joules)  
*Infinitive phrase as subject* (arrow from to see another cat in the house to was)  
*SC* (under 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.

*Participial phrase* (arrow from Sitting at the side window to Joules)  
*Participial phrase* (arrow from watching the outside world to Joules)  
*Infinitive phrase as direct object* (arrow from remember seeing a feline compatriot in the house to remember)

*Tricky, tricky. At the end is a prepositional phrase "to both," "soothing" is a participle modifying "words"; therefore, "soothing words," Should be identified as a noun phrase. Tricky, tricky.*

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~~].”

Him and haints are both objects of the preposition between.

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.

This is a tense problem. Thinking should be changed to something like he was thinking.

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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 there power and to have revealed a time of parallel difficulties to his own.

Incorrect spelling of their.

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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 . . . ].

The relative pronoun is in the wrong case, is the subject it should be who.

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

Dusk needs a preposition to clarify the meaning of the sentence: outside at dusk.

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

We have an agreement problem. This should either be these cat thoughts or this cat thought.

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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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In this case the infinitive needs its signifier to. She looked out to see an old man. I don't think trick or treater is spelled correctly here.

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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; This is a participial phrase modifying neither one. It's not a gerund phrase.  
we have unlimited sport, Participle  
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:      Three participles  
my eye weak though willing  
inclines toward obscured truth.

His is a joyous speed,  
pouncing upon the mouse;  
Mine a fleeting flash of wit,      A participial phrase followed by a participle  
grasping the hard idea.      and then a concluding participial phrase.

Contented with our lives      Participial phrase  
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.      Participle

“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.