

Sammy Buck Giberson

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. Stepping along the sandy Pine Barrens track, Sammy had worked up to a brisk pace [WHEN, up ahead, the cedar bog came into view].
2. Walking in the woods, even at this late hour, never gave him the least concern.
3. The moon, shining brightly through the forest branches, lit up the sugar sand under foot and seemed to guide his way.

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.

Approaching the slender bridge across the bog, Sammy noticed a shape standing at its center. It was the figure of a man, dressed in a long, dark cloak. Striding onto the bridge, Sammy cried a “halloo.” A hint of a nod was returned by the dark figure.

English Language & Grammar—the 2nd Examination, Fall 2022

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4. Voice of 1st _____

5. Voice of 2nd _____

6. Voice of 3rd _____

7. Voice of 4th _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

PREPOSITIONS AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

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

Samuel Giberson, known as Sammy Buck throughout the Pines, was a famed entertainer. In a land overflowing with talented musicians and dancers, Sammy was rivaled by none. Dancing a jig with a glass of water atop his head or tripping the light fantastic upon an unbroken mirror was a frequent occurrence for him. It was his ability to fiddle, though, [that brought the greatest fame to him].

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

16. At gathering places near Browns Mills, Greenwood and Chatsworth, the chance to see Sammy brought together scores of people.

17. Earlier tonight, the gathering at Sooy's barn had been no different.

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. Sammy had given the assembled crowd a night to remember.

19. His dancing was unparalleled and his fiddle playing was exceptional.

20. In truth, Sammy had taken a few drams of liquor during the night and he played with increasing abandon [AS the evening wore on].

21. Couples swung each other to the music, dancing and stomping [AS Sammy stood on a short stool and tried to bring the roof down. *Tricky. 1 point extra if correct.*

22. Waving and bowing at the close of the entertainment, sweating from his exertions, he made a bold claim.

23. “Tonight, I believe [THAT I could outplay the devil].” *Tricky.*

24. It was a fateful statement.

25. Walking through the Pines, later that night, Sammy approached the cedar bog bridge and the standing form upon it.

26. The dark figure addressed Sammy, the masterful fiddle player, and spoke these words to him.

27. “Sammy Buck, I have heard boasting from you tonight about your fiddle playing prowess and I would like to verify its truth.”

28. Sammy stood before the figure and nodded his head: “I said [THAT I could beat the devil] and I won’t take it back.

Here ends the first part of the Second Examination. In the second part we will focus on verbal phrases. How will Sammy fare?

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. Standing in front of the darkened figure, Sammy spoke the following words.

30. “Waiting for me on this bridge is apparently your task tonight, but searching my memory, I do not recognize you.”

31. Bowing formally, the figure, reaching beneath his cloak, held up a striking black and gold violin.

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. “Collecting your soul is my task tonight, unless you are able to back up your earlier boast.”

33. Shrugging from his shoulder the worn cloth bag holding his fiddle, Sammy smiled.

34. Sniffing the sweet scent of cedar and believing [THAT he held the home field advantage], the Piney replied: “I am Sammy Buck Giberson and no one out fiddles me in the Pines.”

35. The contest began with the Devil playing an old Scottish Lowland tune.

36. The music was beautiful, but to say [THAT Sammy was worried] was wrong.

37. Tuning briefly, Sammy launched into a haunting, outlaw melody born in the Scots Highlands.

Tricky. 1 extra point if correct.

38. The two traded song after song and overhearing that competition was surely enough to drive mere mortals mad.

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. The Devil, playing with a swift and fiery dexterity, tended to choose flashy sounding songs.

40. Sammy's answering songs were more homespun in an equally beautiful way.
41. Having played for long hours and with dawn approaching, the Devil made his violin sound like lightning.

Case

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

42. “**Who / whom** could ever outplay that?” thought Sammy.
43. This devil, [**whoever / whomever** he was], certainly had otherworldly inspiration.
Tricky
44. “Inspiration better come to **I / me** and quick,” thought Sammy.

SOMETHING IS WRONG

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

45. At the end of the Devils tune, Sammy sagged down on the bridge, dangling his feet toward the flowing stream.
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46. Concentrating intently, hear the many night sounds of the bog, Sammy listened to the cedars creaking and swaying around him.

47. Whistling breezes swept across their tops, playing it like some ancient earthly organ.

48. Sammy, whom could not read music, could nevertheless pick out the notes sounding above him and soon was playing a wonderful, staggeringly beautiful song never before heard or played by human hand.

49. Upon hearing this magnificent song, Sammy's "Air Tune," the Devil placed his violin beneath his cloak and disappear.

50. At song's end, with reverberations slowly dissipating, Sammy sat with a satisfied smile; at last he rose, and twitched his mantle blue; Whiting was miles away.

Extra Credit

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

Descending from colonial Americans, Sammy Giberson was a real person, living during the nineteenth century in a house near Whiting, New Jersey. To meet his descendants is to touch history. Although none have been blessed to inherit Sammy's musical skill, many are skilled artists and storytellers. One descendant told the story of her famous grandfather's fiddle. Sammy never let it go far from his sight. To see and to play that fiddle gave him reassurance. After his death, though, it disappeared and was never seen again.