Sentence Pattern #8: Use Apposition  

Appositives—nouns or pronouns—extend the meaning of preceding nouns or pronouns. As nonrestrictive (or non-essential) modifiers, they require commas to set them off from the rest of the sentence. Restrictive (essential) appositives and those used as part of a person's name require no commas.

1. Mao Tse-tung learned about her as Lan Ping, the actress, not long after she arrived in Peking.

2. Alan Lupo, a onetime reporter and dogged historical researcher, provides some thoughtful answers.

3. My father, a wise and grave man, gave me serious and excellent counsel.

4. The ship called at Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.

5. Penicillin, a powerful drug, has won medical acceptance.

6. In a touching tribute to George Gershwin, a famous American composer, the orchestra played *Rhapsody In Blue*.

7. The landlord tactfully suggested that we get rid of Mei-Mei, our Siamese cat.

8. Kling, a retired furniture manufacturer, began studying insect life late in his life.


10. I thought the question referred to Lewis the novelist rather than to Lewis the union leader.

11. Thyme, a minty herb, makes a savory chowder seasoning.

12. Shelley, the poet, could not tolerate injustice.
Sentence Pattern #9: Open with an Adverbial Clause . . .

An adverbial clause has a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone; it functions as part of the sentence.

Adverbial clauses modify verbs, adjectives, adverbs, or main clauses. They usually express a relationship of time, place, direction, cause, effect, condition, manner, or concession. The following words serve as common connectives for expressing these relationships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>after</th>
<th>before</th>
<th>so that</th>
<th>whenever</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>although</td>
<td>if</td>
<td>though</td>
<td>where</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as</td>
<td>in order that</td>
<td>till</td>
<td>wherever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as if</td>
<td>provided that</td>
<td>unless</td>
<td>while</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as long as</td>
<td>since</td>
<td>until</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>because</td>
<td>so</td>
<td>when</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When adverbial clauses open a sentence, follow them with a comma.

1. After he seized control, the situation changed drastically.
2. Although she chirped like a happy bird, I knew Jo's sorrow.
3. As the hours passed, Chiang Ch'ing's energy level mounted.
4. Because he reads faster, he finishes before I do.
5. Before I could even get to my feet to defend myself, she bent down and gave me a clip across the ear.
6. If the barometer drops sharply, a change in the weather will occur.
7. Since she works afternoons, she can't go to the tea.
8. Though some critics have clucked over her dearth of experience,
Sentence Pattern #10:
Use Parallel Structure in Words,
Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences · · ·

Parallel structure places words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in a series of the same grammatical elements. Creating parallel constructions shows the reader that two or more things relate to each other as equal importance.

Think of railroad tracks, which run parallel to each other. If one track bends along the line, a train goes off the rails. The same happens to a reader: he goes off the track of logical thought if ideas don't run parallel.

1. Europeans and Americans watched jai alai on the Avenue du Roi Albert, gambled on greyhounds at the Canidrome, and enjoyed the most glittering night life in the world at the Ambassador, the Casanova and the Venus Cafe.

2. I sell canned goods, fresh meat, bread and crackers, flour, fencing, nails, hammers, guns.

3. He drew her to him, whispered in her ear, and kissed her.

4. The professor told us to write in ink, to use only yellow paper, and to create four margins.

5. You may go by air, you may travel by auto, or you may sail by cruise ship.

6. He expressed gratitude to his teachers, to his parents, and to the school system.

7. Burdened with business drudgery, harassed by domestic worries, and hampered by narrow means, Charles Lamb achieved a rare degree of culture and a mastery of style.

8. He walked to the platform, he stood still a moment, and he hesitantly began to speak.

9. His dramatic attempt to take over the conduct of his own case alienated him from his counsel, almost broke up the trial, and probably helped cost him his life.

10. Wind and spray together blind, deafen, and strangle you.

11. I resolved to lash myself securely to the water-cask, to cut it loose from the counter, and to throw myself with it into the water.

12. Surely we can find other worlds than this—other thoughts than the thoughts of the multitude—other speculations than the speculations of the sophist.
Sentence Pattern #11:
Open with an Adjective . . .

An adjective describes or points out a noun or pronoun. It tells what kind, what color, how many, which one, whose.

Adjectives enable a writer to specify, to distinguish (not shelf, but lowest shelf). They add descriptive details (a scene of pleasant memories). They also limit or make more definite the meaning of a key word (the first book).

Typically, adjectives immediately precede the words they modify; however, pulled away from those words and placed on the front of a sentence and followed by a comma, they gain emphasis.

1. Hopeful, she chose a new stage name: Lan P'ing, or Blue Peace.
2. Breathless and weary, she sped down the road.
3. Fearful, the hunter fled through the jungle.
4. Happy, Dorothy announced her engagement.
5. Cheerful, Clark walked away with a smile on his face.
6. Cold, the football players stayed near the fire.
7. Wiser, Gary decided to pursue another goal.
8. Furious, Peter felt frustration.
9. Attractive, the tall young man exuded confidence.
10. Self-conscious, Anthony stumbled to his feet.
11. Influential, the senator swayed the opinions of his colleagues.
12. Bellicose, the man often started fights in bars.
Sentence Pattern #12: Open with an Adjective Phrase . . .

Adjective phrases consist of adjectives plus a group of words, often a prepositional phrase, without a subject and verb.

Adjective phrases serve the same function as adjectives: they modify nouns or pronouns. They also tell *what kind, what color, how many, which one, whose.* Placed as sentence openers, adjective phrases end with a comma.

1. Mindful of the women's movement, fearful of government action, and stung by a multimillion dollar antidiscrimination suit filed against NBC by its female employees in 1975, the three major networks have discovered that women deliver the news as credibly as men.

2. Afloat with confidence, Blackford told his contact everything.

3. Splenetic because of his mistakes, the player walked off the field.

4. Attractive in a very physical sense, Blackford proved irresistible to the ladies.

5. Confident when in possession of a pencil and paper, he could write a paragraph on a moment's notice.

6. Passionate on the subject, he spoke for an hour.

7. Sympathetic to a high degree, Blake forgave her for her transgressions.

8. Vague in his political statements, the candidate has a philosophy akin to that in *Star Wars.*

9. Vivacious in her demeanor, Helen played the role of hostess with warmth.

10. Superstitious to a high degree, Sarah shunned black cats.
Sentence Pattern #13: Open with a Present Infinitive...

The verbals, half-verb, half-something else, make sentences more active. The English language has three verbals: participles, gerunds, and infinitives.

In arithmetic, one plus one equals two. In the world of the infinitive, one plus one equals three.

1 preposition + 1 verb, present tense = infinitive

(to) + (improve) = (to improve)

1 infinitive . 3 parts of speech:

Noun To improve one’s mind becomes a worthwhile goal.
Adverb She struggled to improve her mind.
Adjective He had a desire to improve his mind.

Infinitives form phrases in three ways:
1. by combining with adverbs: He wanted to sit quietly by himself.

2. by combining with prepositional phrases:
   To sing in the shower became a daily habit.

3. by taking objects: He yearned to see his sweetheart.

Commas usually follow long infinitive phrases that open sentences.

Note: In its usage as an adjective, an infinitive will never appear as a sentence opener. The noun or pronoun that the infinitive modifies must appear in front of the infinitive; thus we will not have an infinitive opener.

Examples:

1. To cope with the new tax law, taxpayers must attempt to comprehend subtle variations in meaning.

2. To reduce expenses, the newspaper has had to trim its editorial staff from twenty-one to twelve.
Sentence Pattern #14:
Open with a Perfect Infinitive . . .

The present infinitive to have + the third principal part of the verb (or its past participle) = the perfect infinitive (to have written).

The perfect infinitive usually refers to a time previous to the time indicated by the verb of the main part of the sentence.

Perfect infinitives form phrases in the same three ways as the present infinitive:

1. by combining with adverbs:
   To have talked more loudly, I would have needed a microphone.

2. by combining with prepositional phrases:
   To have arrived on time, I would have had to come by air.

3. by taking objects:
   To have given an answer, I should have heard the question.

As noted in the preceding models, the comma usually follows the perfect infinitive used as a sentence opener.

Examples:

1. To have spoken at the convention, I would have needed an invitation.

2. To have gone by train, I would have needed a reservation.

3. To have thrown the ball, I would have needed a catcher.

4. To have known about the book, I would have had to see the ad.

5. To have eaten such a big dinner, I would have had to go without food for a day.

6. To have written the letter would have meant I would have had to own a typewriter.

7. To have penned that note, I would have needed a purple pen.

8. To have chosen that coat, I would have had to have spent a fortune.
Sentence Pattern #15:
Open with a Present Participle . . .

Participles, the second of the three verbals in the language, serve as half verb, half adjective.

The present participle = the ing form of the verb (drumming, twisting, shimmering).

Like a verb, the participle often expresses an action. Like an adjective, it describes or modifies a noun or pronoun.

A participle may form a participial phrase in three ways, similar to the infinitive:

1. by combining with an adverb:
   Writing hurriedly, I finished the lesson.

2. by combining with a prepositional phrase:
   Writing in my diary, I spilled the ink.

3. by taking an object:
   Writing the last page, I sighed with relief.

When a participle or participial phrase opens a sentence, use a comma after it. The noun or pronoun immediately following the comma must serve as the word modified by the participle; otherwise, the participle dangles. Look at this example:

Standing on the hilltop, the sky was red and golden.

The wording of this example indicates that the sky does the standing. Thus, the participle ~angles. To correct it, we must show who does the standing.

Standing on the hilltop, we admired the red and gold sky.

Examples:

1. Singing softly, Martha stood in the garden.

2. Gazing at the roses, Martha stood in the garden.

3. Watering the flowers, Martha stood in the garden.

4. Conducting his people program at a private level, President Carter breakfasted with John Shanklin, 71, an employee of Washington's Sheraton-Carlton Hotel.

5. Finding that her Indiana students paid more attention to television than to books, the university professor fired off copies of her resume to television and radio stations around the country.

6. Stepping up to the door, I saw my father dozing on the sofa.

7. Writing rapidly, I finished the essay.
Sentence Pattern #16:  
Open with a Past Participle . . .

The past participle = the third principal part of the verb (satisfied, compared, overtaken, gone).

Past participles form participial phrases in two ways:

1. by combining with adverbs: deeply gn'eyed

2. by combining with prepositional phrases: disturbed by the events

Past participles do not take objects, as do present participles.

When a past participial phrase opens a sentence, use a comma following it.

Examples:

1. Scarred with glacial grooves, the crag loomed ahead.

2. Tom badly and exhausted physically, he scrambled to the summit.

3. Impressed by the ceremony and deeply moved by the speeches, we all left the hall in silence.

4. Bewitched, bothered, and bewildered, I fell in love.

5. Compared with the thousands of U.S., Soviet, and West European supersonic airplanes that crisscross the skies, the tiny Concorde fleet could not possibly have much impact on the ozone.

6. Satisfied that the man in the canoe could have no arms, Deerslayer did not hesitate to dash alongside the retiring boat.

7. Moved from his home at an early age, he soon learned to fend for himself.
Sentence Pattern #17:
Open with a Perfect Participle . . .

The perfect participle = *having* + the third principal part of the verb (*having deposited, having kissed, having begun, having come*).

Perfect participles form perfect participial phrases in three ways:

1. by combining with adverbs: *having shrieked loudly*

2. by combining with prepositional phrases:
   *having come to the abandoned quarry*

3. by taking objects: *having kissed his forehead*

When a perfect participle or perfect participial phrase opens a sentence, use a comma following it.

Examples:

1. Having deposited our mournful burden upon trestles within this region of horror, we partially turned aside the yet unscrewed lid of the coffin, and looked upon the face of the tenant.

2. Having kissed his forehead, she returned with her buoyant step to the window.

3. Having slipped the packstrap from his shoulders, he sat quietly.

4. Having replied in the language used in the quarry pits, the guitar player took him aside and spoke to him seriously about how one must behave in front of ladies.

5. Having barely begun to read, Stefan laid the newspaper down.
Sentence Pattern #18: Open With a Direct Object . . .

The word transitive means "crossing over." A transitive verb carries action from the doer of the action to the receiver. The doer of the action we call the subject of the sentence; the receiver of the action we label the direct object. The usual pattern of the English sentence follows the order of subject-verb-direct object. By placing the direct object as the sentence opener, the writer gives much more emphasis to the receiver of the action.

Examples:

1. Strands of colored weeds she had made into a blanket.

2. Long life I love better than figs.

3. Real estate Jeff Sherwood sells.

4. A better job I never had.

5. A Jaguar Uncle Terry owns, but he rarely drives it.

6. Mary and John the director chose.

7. Civilized ways of doing things you must learn if you wish to assume a role in society.

8. Soup, a salad, cheese, and the house wine he ordered in the restaurant.

9. Instant safety the police promised.

10. The Queen's arrival he did not notice until she tapped him on the shoulder.
Sentence Pattern #19: Open With a Verb . . .

Verbs supply action to a sentence. They make statements, ask questions, or give commands.

*Time* Magazine, in every issue, makes frequent use of the verb as a sentence opener, particularly in recording conversation.

When you open a sentence with a verb, you may take credit for two different sentence patterns: #19 and #7, “Use conversation.”

Examples:

1. Said she politely, “Good morning, Brother Snake.”

2. Declared Marc Antony over Caesar’s body: “I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.”

3. Says one White House aide: “In effect, Carter has to keep on campaigning.”

4. Replied the senator, “I haven’t yet made up my mind about the legislation.”

5. Answered Andy, “I didn’t hear you call me.”

6. Retorted Marge, “You didn’t listen to me!”

7. Inquired Gary, “Where have all the kittens gone?”

8. Whispered Dick, “I think I hear a footstep.”

9. Thought Blackford, “Mother won’t give it a moment’s notice.”


11. Muttered Mike, “How do we handle this situation?”
Sentence Pattern #20:
Open With a Present Gerund . . .

Gerunds, the third of the three verbals in the language, serve as half verb, half noun.

The present gerund = the ing form of the verb (drumming, twisting, shimmer-ing). It looks identical to the participle, but remember that the participle functioned as an adjective whereas the gerund operates as a noun.

Like a verb, the present gerund often expresses an action. Like a noun, it may serve as:

1. subject of a sentence: Driving a tractor appealed to him.
2. predicate noun: My specialty is fencing.
3. object of preposition: For silencing her screaming we thanked him.

A present gerund may form a gerund phrase in three ways, similar to the infinitive and the participle:

1. by combining with an adverb: Driving dangerously becomes a bad habit.
2. by combining with a prepositional phrase: Writing in my diary has become a daily ritual.
3. by taking an object: Writing the last chapter gave me a feeling of success.

Examples:

1. Opening the heavy gate took longer than he thought.
2. Papering the bathroom occupied the entire evening.
3. Saving the Queen became the aim of the agent.
4. Standing in the doorway blocks the view.
5. Changing his accent resulted in a personality change.
6. Writing contemporary essays posed no problems for him.
7. Talking incessantly annoys the class.
8. Driving recklessly could put you in a hospital.
9. Asking me the questions won't necessarily get you the answers.
10. Communicating with his parents became an arduous task.