**Exercise 1**

**Practice Part A:** Add a dependent clause to change each simple sentence into a complex sentence.

Example: Uncle Jeff went sailing. *(Simple)*

Even though the weather was bad, Uncle Jeff went sailing. *(Complex)*

1. Beth babysits the neighborhood children.

Beth babysits the neighborhood children when their parents go out.

1. Mom said that I could stay up late.

Even though tomorrow is a school day, Mom said that I could stay up late.

1. The bakery has two fruit pies left.

Since Thanksgiving is tomorrow, the bakery has two fruit pies left.

1. We made a sandcastle.

We made a sandcastle when we went to the beach.

1. My family enjoys playing board games.

Whenever it rains, my family enjoys playing board games.

**Practice Part B:** Put brackets [ ] around the parts of the sentence that are independent clauses in each compound sentence below.

Example: [The streets are filled with cars], but [the sidewalks are empty].

1. [Those apples are too sour to eat], but [those pears are perfect].
2. [She studies hard], but [she saves some time to enjoy herself].
3. [They lost track of time], so [they were late].
4. [Eric had not studied], so [he failed the test].
5. [Yesterday it snowed all day], but [today the sun is shining].

**Practice Part C:** In each complex sentence below, underline the subordinate clause.

Example: The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backward.

1. The cat that is sitting in the window is mine.
2. The car that is parked outside is new.
3. Jack, who is a football star, is class president.
4. Bonnie, who is an artist, is also studying computer science.
5. John likes food that is cooked in the microwave.
6. The composer who wrote the music comes from Germany.
7. We missed seeing him because we were late.
8. When Jake arrives, we will tell him what happened.
9. She walked slowly because she had hurt her leg.
10. When she walked to the podium, everyone applauded.

**Exercise 2**

Directions: The sentences in the following pairs are closely related. Using the methods you’ve learned, combine each pair into a compound sentence. Remember to add commas where they are needed in your combined sentences. Use each of the three methods at least once, and write your revised sentences in the spaces provided.

1. The Hopi Indians live on a reservation. They have many separate villages.

The Hopi Indians live on a reservation, but they have many separate villages.

1. Many Hopi Indians grow crops. Some make jewelry, baskets, pottery , and wooden dolls.

Many Hopi Indians grow crops; however, some make jewelry, baskets, pottery, and wooden dolls.

1. The dolls are called kachina dolls. They have special meaning for the Hopi.

The dolls are called kachina dolls; they have special meaning for the Hopi.

1. Kachina dolls represent spirits. They play an important part in Hopi religious ceremonies.

Kachina dolls represent spirits, and they play an important part in Hopi religious ceremonies.

1. The Hopi are peaceful people. Their religion is important to them.

The Hopi are peaceful people; therefore, their religion is important to them.

**Exercise 3**

**Part A:** On the lines provided, revise each of the following sentences. Follow the directions in parentheses to vary each sentence beginning.

1. Luis studied the history of basketball in social studies class. (Use a phrase.)

In social studies class, Luis studied the history of basketball.

1. A game similar to basketball was invented in Mexico before basketball was ever played in the United States. (Use a subordinate clause.)

Before basketball was ever played in the United States, a game similar to basketball was invented in Mexico.

1. A form of basketball was invented by the Olmec people of ancient Mexico, which is interesting. (Use a single-word modifier.)

Interestingly, a form of basketball was invented by the Olmec people of ancient Mexico.

1. They played an early form of the game called *pok-ta-pok* by shooting a rubber ball through a ring. (Use a phrase.)

By shooting a rubber ball through a ring, they played an early form of the game called pok-ta-pok.

**Part B:** On the lines provided, revise the following paragraph to create variety in sentence structure. You may add, delete, or change words as necessary.

Sports have come from countries around the world. Bowling was probably the first played in Egypt. Wrestling probably began in Egypt or Mesopotamia. Boxing had its beginning in early Greece. Bullfighting originated in Crete. Tennis began in France.

Sports have come from countries around the world. While bowling was probably the first played in Egypt, wrestling probably began in Egypt or Mesopotamia. Boxing had its beginning in early Greece, but bullfighting originated in Crete, and tennis began in France.

**Exercise 4**

**Practice Varying Sentence Structure**

Using what you’ve learned about combining sentences and varying structure, revise the following paragraph to make it smoother and more varied. A combination of different kinds of sentences will make the paragraph much more fun to read.

My friends and I had lunch. We ate at a food court on the second floor of a mall. The food court has food from different countries. About twenty restaurants are there. Lin had soup and salad. I had a burrito. It was delicious. Joe and Debbie split a pizza. Then we walked around and looked at the people. There was a fashion show on the main floor. Debbie and I admired the clothes. Lin and Joe liked watching the models. We looked at a display of new cars. We talked about the kinds of cars we’d like to have.

Now, rewrite the above paragraph to make the sentences more interesting and varied. Try using subordinate clauses and compound sentences.

My friends and I had lunch at a food court on the second floor of a mall. Serving food from different countries, the food court has about twenty restaurants. Lin had soup and salad, while I had a delicious burrito. Joe and Debbie split a pizza. Then we walked around and looked at the people; also, there was a fashion show on the main floor. Debbie and I admired the clothes, but Lin and Joe liked watching the models. As we looked at a display of new cars, we talked about the kinds we’d like to have.

**Exercise 5**

**Editing Paragraph: Writing Effective Sentences**

Directions: The sentences in the passage below are unnecessarily short and choppy. On the lines provided, use subordinate clauses, compound verbs, and any other means you wish to combine the ideas in the passage into smooth sentences.

*Poor Richard’s Almanack* was written and published by Benjamin Franklin. He wrote it under the name Richard Saunders. Richard Saunders was supposedly an impoverished astronomer. “Poor Richard” was like the other publishers of almanacs in colonial America. [He noted the holidays. He forecast the weather. He offered practical advice. He printed poems. He printed jokes. He printed odd facts. Most importantly, he printed clever proverbs or sayings.] These sayings expressed his own philosophy of life. Poor Richard was misnamed. The almanac prospered. So did Benjamin Franklin. He was a wealthy man by the age of forty-two. He could afford to retire.

*Poor Richard’s Almanack* was written and published by Benjamin Franklin under the name Richard Saunders who was supposedly an impoverished astronomer. “Poor Richard” was like the other publishers of almanacs in colonial America. He noted the holidays, forecast the weather, and offered practical advice. He also printed poems, jokes, and odd facts. Most importantly, he printed clever proverbs or sayings which expressed his own philosophy of life. Because the almanac prospered and so did Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard was misnamed. He was a wealthy man by the age of forty-two and could afford to retire.

Not Parallel:

He noted the holidays, he forecast the weather, he offered practical advice, printed poems, jokes, and odd facts.

Parallel:

He noted the holidays, he forecast the weather, he offered practical advice, and he printed poems, jokes, and odd facts.

OR

He noted the holidays, forecast the weather, and offered practical advice. He also printed poems, jokes, and odd facts.