

COORDINATION AND APPOSITION

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE SENTENCES

1. Print this file and place the answer pages to the side.
2. Cover the answer pages with a sheet of paper, and slide the paper down as you complete each practice sentence.
3. Use colored markers and a highlighter to work on each practice sentence.

Feel free to write to me (dr_ron@grammar-once-and-for-all.com) if you have any questions or problems.

Directions

1. Mark structural backbones:

Color just the main word of subjects of finite verbs **blue**.

Color auxiliary verbs and main verbs **red**.

Color just the main word of completers of finite verbs **green**.

2. Mark all the **coordinate** functions in each sentence by writing the same number above each coordinated element. Use a different number for different sets of coordinate functions within the same sentence:

¹ Jack and his ¹ **teammates** ² **put in** their ² **thumbs** and **pulled out** some **plums**,

³ although **they had been hoping** for ³ **M & Ms** or **Smarties**.

[Note that *thumbs* and *plums* are not coordinate: they are the completers of different verbs.]

¹ Large boisterous ¹ **salamanders** **are** ² often fussy and ² **require** constant ³ **soothing**

³ and **encouragement**.

3. Mark elements that are in **apposition** by writing **AP** after the numbers marking coordination, as in the following nursery rhyme, in which *bed*, *leg*, and *pair* are in apposition with *riches*:

1

My **father died** a month ago

1 2Ap

And **left me** all his **riches**,

2Ap 2Ap

A feather **bed** and a wooden **leg**

2Ap

And a **pair** of leather breeches.

3

He left me a **teapot** without a spout,

3

A **cup** without a handle,

3

A tobacco **pipe** without a lid,

3

And half a farthing **candle**

[*Me* and the following four nouns, *teapot*, *cup*, *pipe*, and *candle*, make up a double completer. You ask, “left me **what?**]

Coordination and Apposition: Sentences 1 - 4:

1. There was an old lady; she swallowed a spider;

It wiggled and jiggled and giggled inside her.

2. You can't eat your cake and have it too.

3. So on we worked, and waited for the night,

And went without the meat, and cursed the bread,

And Richard Corey one calm summer night,

Went home and put a bullet through his head.

4. Eliza, Lisabeth, Betsy, and Bess

Went to the woods and found a bird's nest.

They found a nest with five eggs in it;

They each took one and left four in it.

Coordination and Apposition: Sentences 5 - 9

5. The fiddler and his wife,

The piper and his mother,

Ate three half cakes, three whole cakes,

And three quarters of another.

6. That writhing nuisance, our pet boa, Scaley, constantly constricts our freedom of movement and prevents us and our neighbors from sleeping.

7. The master, the swabber, the boatswain, and I,

The gunner and his mate

Loved Mall, Meg, and Marian, and Margery,

But none of us cared for Kate...

8. That classroom nuisance, the flatulent student, often becomes a professional gas bag, a teacher.

9. In the centre the river rushed, fierce, silent, fast, fed by other snows, and black, black in between its edges of ice and snow.

Coordination and Apposition: Answers to Sentences 1 - 4

1. There **was** an old **lady**; **she** **swallowed** a **spider**;
 1 1 1

It **wiggled** and **jiggled** and **giggled** inside her.

[Adapted slightly from a folk song. The subject of *was* is *lady*. *There* is a dummy subject.]

2. **You** **can't eat** your **cake** and **have** **it** too.
 1 1

3. So on **we** **worked**, and **waited** for the night,
 1 1 1
 And **went** without the meat, and **cursed** the **bread**;

And **Richard Cory** one calm summer night,
 2 2
Went home and **put** a **bullet** through his head.

[From "Richard Cory," a poem by E. A. Robinson. *We* is the subject of the four coordinate finite verbs: *worked*, *waited*, *went*, and *cursed*.]

4. **Eliza, Lisabeth, Betsy,** and **Bess**
 1 1 1 1
 2 2
Went to the woods and **found** a bird's **nest**.

They **found** a **nest** with five eggs in it;
 3 3

They each **took** **one** and **left** **four** in it.

[Slightly adapted from an English nursery rhyme. Only one egg was taken because there's only one girl: the four names are all variations of Elizabeth.]

Coordination and Apposition: Answers to Sentences 5 - 9

5. The ¹fiddler and his ¹wife,

The ¹piper and his ¹mother,

²Ate three half ²cakes, three whole ²cakes,

And ²three quarters of another.

[Another riddling nursery rhyme. The arithmetic is simplified if you know that the fiddler's wife and the piper's mother is the same person, so the cakes were divided among only three people.]

6. That writhing ^{1AP}nuisance, our pet ^{1AP}boa, ^{1AP}Scaley, constantly

²constricts our ²freedom of movement and ²prevents ³us as well as our ³neighbors from sleeping.

[The three subjects of the finite verb are in apposition: there's only one snake, and the finite verbs are singular.]

7. The ¹master, the ¹swabber, the ¹boatswain, and ¹I,

The ¹gunner and his ¹mate

²Loved ²Mall, ²Meg, and ²Marian, and ²Margery,

But ²none of us ²cared for Kate...

[This is the opening of a song from William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The first finite verb, *loved*, has six subjects and four completers. Then, in contrast, the second finite verb, *cared*, has only one subject and one completer.]

8. That classroom ^{1AP}nuisance, the flatulent ^{1AP}student, often ^{1AP}becomes a professional

^{2Ap}gasbag, a ^{2Ap}teacher.

9. In the centre the ¹river ¹rushed, fierce, silent, fast, fed by other snows, and black,

¹black in between its edges of ice and snow.

[From a novel by Iris Murdoch, *The Book and the Brotherhood* (Viking, 1988), p. 260.

The structural backbone is very simple: *river rushed*. The series of 6 adjectives all modify *river*.

The first three have been shifted to the end of the sentence from their "normal" position in front of the noun in order to emphasize them. It's almost as if there is an implied sentence, "The river was ...", in which these modifiers would have been the completers of *was*.

Fed by other snows "explains" why the river is fast.

Black is repeated and is modified by a prepositional phrase, *in between its edges*. The sentence ends with a visual image of the whole river, literally in black and (snow) white.]