



English I: Writing: Module 7: Practice 4: Section 4

Using Ratiocination to Discover Where to Revise

Sentence Labeling

Instructions: When you revise, there is no one telling you, “Revise these sentences,” “Make this a complex sentence,” “Add a compound / complex sentence here.” You have to make these decisions on your own. To help you “see what you have,” you can use ratiocination. If you label all the simple sentences, you will be able to tell if you have a sufficient amount of sentence variety or if most of your sentences are simple and, therefore, the same. In the following exercise, you will label all the simple sentences in a short paragraph and then choose two of the simple sentences to revise as compound or complex sentences. When you are finished, mouse over the “Sample Responses” buttons to see sample responses to each question.

1. Read the following short paragraph, and label each sentence using the key in the blue box. Type your choice into the spaces provided in the paragraph.

When people think of pets, they usually think of cats and dogs. []

Very few people think of llamas. []

Llamas are not commonly thought of as pets. []

Llamas are very affectionate and intelligent. []



Source: Baby Llama (5615095787), Berit, Wikimedia

Key:

S = simple

NS = not simple

Suggested Response



Source: Llama, Auntie P, Flickr

2. Now, using the box below, combine two of the simple sentences to make a complex sentence.

Hint: Use the subordinating conjunction “although.”

Suggested Response



3. Here's another short paragraph. Label each sentence using the key in the blue box.



Source: llama party, Trevor, Flickr

Some people get a little crazy about these animals. []
A woman from Ballston Spa, N.Y. says they are like potato chips. []
You can't stop with just one. []
She got her first llama as a wedding gift from her husband in 1990. []
They now have a herd of 55.

Key:
S = simple
NS = not simple

Suggested Response

4. Now combine two of the simple sentences to make a compound sentence.

Hint: Use the coordinating conjunction "and."

Suggested Response



5. Read this short paragraph, and label each sentence using the key in the blue box.



Source: Llama Crossing, Chris Walts, Flickr

Llama lovers do not want people to confuse llamas with alpacas. []
Alpacas are from the same animal family (camelids). []
Alpacas look somewhat like small llamas. []
Llamas have the personality of dogs. []
Alpacas have the personality of sheep. []

Key:
S = simple
NS = not simple

Suggested Response

6. Now combine four of the simple sentences (the last four) to make a compound / complex sentence. This will involve some tricky maneuvers. One way to do it is to make two compound sentences and then use “although” to make this compound sentence into a dependent clause. Finally combine the last two sentences into another compound sentence and make this the independent clause.

Suggested Response