

Exercises

Sentence Building

Sentence Building with adj /adv

1. Willie had a beard and a moustache.
The beard was bushy.
The beard was long.
The moustache was droopy.
2. The man handed me a photograph of a woman.
He did this silently.
The man was old.
The woman was beautiful.

3. The man handed me a photograph of a woman.
The photograph was torn.
The photograph was faded.
The woman was young.
4. The photograph brought back memories.
The memories were brought back instantly.
The memories were fine.
The memories were old.
5. The photograph of the woman brought back memories.
The memories were brought back instantly.
The woman was beautiful.
The woman was young.
The photograph was torn.
The photograph was faded.
The memories were fine.
The memories were old.

- 1. Willie had a long, bushy beard and a droopy moustache.*
- 2. Silently, the old man handed me a photograph of a beautiful woman.*
- 3. The man handed me a torn and faded photograph of a young woman.*
- 4. The photograph instantly brought back fine old memories.*
- 5. The torn and faded photograph of a beautiful young woman instantly brought back fine old memories.*

1. A mouse darted.
It darted across the salad bar.
This happened during the luncheon.
2. We traveled this summer.
We traveled by train.
We traveled from Biloxi.
We traveled to Dubuque.
3. The convertible swerved, crashed, and caromed.
It swerved off the road.
It crashed through the guardrail.
It caromed off a maple tree.

4. Mick planted seeds.

He planted them in his garden.

He did this after the quarrel.

The quarrel was with Mr. Jimmy.

5. Grandpa dropped his teeth.

His teeth were false.

His teeth dropped into a glass.

There was prune juice in the glass.

6. Lucy played.

She was behind the sofa.

She was with her friend.

Her friend was imaginary.

They played for hours.

7. There was a man.

He wore a chicken costume.

He dashed across the field.

He did this before the ballgame.

The ballgame was on Sunday afternoon.

8. A man stood, looking down.

He stood upon a railroad bridge.

The bridge was in northern Alabama.

He was looking down into the water.

The water was twenty feet below.

The water was swift.

9. The gray-flannel fog closed off the Salinas Valley.

It was the fog of winter.

The fog was high.

The Salinas Valley was closed off from the sky.

And the Salinas Valley was closed off from all the rest of the world.

10. I climbed to my perch.

I did this one night.

The night was hot.

The night was in the summer.

The night was in 1949.

It was my usual perch.

My perch was in the press box.

The press box was cramped.

The press box was above the stands.

The stands were wooden.

These were the stands of the baseball park.

The baseball park was in Lumberton, North Carolina.

1. During the luncheon, a mouse darted across the salad bar.
2. This summer we traveled by train from Biloxi to Dubuque.
3. The convertible swerved off the road, crashed through the guardrail, and caromed off a maple tree.
4. After his quarrel with Mr. Jimmy, Mick planted seeds in his garden.
5. Grandpa dropped his false teeth into a glass of prune juice.
6. Lucy played behind the couch for hours with her imaginary friend.
7. Before the ballgame on Sunday afternoon, a man in a chicken costume dashed across the field.
8. A man stood upon a railroad bridge in northern Alabama, looking down into the swift waters twenty feet below.
(Ambrose Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge")
9. The high gray-flannel fog of winter closed off the Salinas Valley from the sky and from all the rest of the world.
(John Steinbeck, "The Chrysanthemums")
10. One hot night in the summer of 1949, I climbed to my usual perch in the cramped press box above the wooden stands of the baseball park in Lumberton, North Carolina.
(Tom Wicker, "Baseball")

Over the high coast mountains and over the valleys the gray clouds marched in from the ocean. The wind blew fiercely and silently, high in the air, and it swished in the brush, and it roared in the forests. The clouds came in brokenly, in puffs, in folds, in gray crags; and they piled in together and settled low over the west. And then the wind stopped and left the clouds deep and solid. The rain began with gust showers, pauses and downpours; and then gradually it settled to a single tempo, small drops and a steady beat, rain that was gray to see through, rain that cut midday light to evening. And at first the dry earth sucked the moisture down and blackened. For two days the earth drank the rain, until the earth was full. Then puddles formed, and in the low places little lakes formed in the fields. The muddy lakes rose higher, and the steady rain whipped the shining water. At last the mountains were full, and the hillsides spilled into the streams, built them to freshlets, and sent them roaring down the canyons into the valleys. The rain beat on steadily. And the streams and the little rivers edged up to the bank sides and worked at willows and tree roots, bent the willows deep in the current, cut out the roots of cotton-woods and brought down the trees. The muddy water whirled along the bank sides and crept up the banks until at last it spilled over, into the fields, into the orchards, into the cotton patches where the black stems stood. Level fields became lakes, broad and gray, and the rain whipped up the surfaces. Then the water poured over the highways, and cars moved slowly, cutting the water ahead, and leaving a boiling muddy wake behind. The earth whispered under the beat of the rain, and the streams thundered under the churning freshlets.