## Language Arts 709 <br> Compositions

## 1. WRITING SENTENCES

SENTENCE TYPES ..... $\mid 6$
SENTENCE ERRORS ..... |12
SPELLING |17
SELF TEST 1 |19
2. WRITING PARAGRAPHS ..... 23
PARAGRAPH COMPONENTS ..... |24
PARAGRAPH PATTERNS ..... |35
PARAGRAPH FLAWS |40
SPELLING ..... $\mid 42$
SELF TEST 2 ..... |44
3. PRONOUNCING WORDS ..... 49
PRACTICE OF ACTUAL WORDS |50
PRACTICE OF NONSENSE WORDS |56
SPELLING |64
SELF TEST 3 |67
$\square$ LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

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## Compositions

## Introduction

Communication is a two-way activity. You communicate with others when you write or speak. Others communicate with you when you listen or read.
Effective communication depends upon many of the skills that you will learn and practice in this LIFEPAC®. You will learn to write four types of sentences. You will learn the two most common sentence errors and both how to avoid them and how to correct them. You will have an opportunity to combine a variety of sentences to form paragraphs. You will learn how to recognize and avoid two common paragraph flaws. All of these skills will assist you not only in writing but also in your reading as well.

You will learn the importance of careful, correct pronunciation. You will discover some of the phonetic difficulties in pronouncing the English language. You will have an opportunity to practice pronouncing actual words as well as delightful "nonsense" words and tongue twisters. Skills acquired in speaking carefully also will help you to become a better listener.

The advantages of being able to communicate effectively with others carry over to all areas of your life, in and out of school. Effective communication is essential for a Christian young person who wishes to give testimony to his faith.

## Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Explain the importance of the sentence as a basic structure of communication.
2. Demonstrate "sentence sense" in recognizing a complete thought.
3. Classify and punctuate sentences according to function.
4. Identify three common sentence errors.
5. Spell new words.
6. Identify and explain inductive, deductive, and transitional paragraphs.
7. Explain and identify sequence and unity.
8. Explain certain dictionary and pronunciation facts.
9. Explain various types of nonsense literature.
10. Define certain literary terms.

## 1. WRITING SENTENCES

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought and that is punctuated as an independent unit. In the written English language, the sentence is the basic structure. Until you have mastered the skills of writing clear, concise, correct sentences, you will not be ready to write paragraphs.

You will need to develop a "sentence sense" that enables you to recognize a complete thought in sentence form. You will learn to classify sentences according to their function.

In this section you will learn to write and to correctly punctuate declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences. You will learn to recognize and to correct the three most common sentence errors. You will learn to pronounce and to define words and terms essential to the study of sentences.

The sentence skills you acquire not only will assist you in effective written communication. They will also help to apply clear thinking to sentences that you study or read for pleasure.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Explain the importance of the sentence as a basic structure of communication.
2. Demonstrate "sentence sense" in recognizing a complete thought.
3. Classify and punctuate sentences according to function.
4. Identify three common sentence errors.
5. Spell new words.

## VOCABULARY

## Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

abstract (ab' strakt). Expressing a quality or idea rather than a particular object.
auxiliary verb (og zil' yur ē vėrb). Helping verb; verb used to form the tense of other verbs. declarative (di klar' u tiv). Making a statement; explaining.
exclamatory (ek sklam' u tôr' ē). Spoken suddenly in surprise; expressing strong feelings.
function (fungk' shun). The work or normal action performed; the purpose.
imperative (im per' u tiv). Urgent; expressing a command or a request.
interrogative (in'tu rog'u tiv). Asking a question.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in boldface print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cãre, fär; let, ēqual, tėrm; it, Īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, puit, rüle; child; long; thin; $/ \mp H /$ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## SENTENCE TYPES

Sentences may be classified, or typed, according to structure (as you learned in Language Arts LIFEPAC 704) or according to function. In this section you will study sentences according to their purpose, meaning, or function.

To review briefly, a sentence is a group of words that communicate a complete thought. A sentence is punctuated as a separate unit. A sentence begins with a capitalized word and ends with a period, a question mark, or an exclamation mark.

According to meaning or function, sentences may be placed in one of four different classifications.

- A declarative sentence tells something about the subject. The proper end punctuation is a period. The declarative sentence is by far the most common in written English.
- An interrogative sentence asks a question. The proper end punctuation is a question mark.
- An imperative sentence expresses a command. The proper end punctuation is usually a period.
- An exclamatory sentence expresses strong feeling. The proper end punctuation is an exclamation mark.

Read the following sentences. In the blank after each sentence, write the correct sentence type according to function.

Example: Why was Saul going to Damascus? interrogative
1.1 Saul of Tarsus was a Pharisee.
1.2 He was a bitter enemy of all Christians!
1.3 As he neared Damascus, he was blinded by a great light. $\qquad$
1.4 He heard a strange voice. $\qquad$
1.5 "Saul, why do you persecute me?" $\qquad$
1.6 At first, Saul did not understand what was happening to him. $\qquad$
1.7 "Lord, what will you have me to do?" he asked. $\qquad$
1.8 "Arise, and go into the city." $\qquad$
1.9 For three days, Saul lay in darkness. $\qquad$
1.10 The Lord appeared to a Christian named Ananias. $\qquad$
1.11 "Arise, and go into Straight Street." $\qquad$
1.12 "Ask for Saul of Tarsus." $\qquad$
1.13 Ananias asked, "Is this the same Saul who persecutes the Christians?"
1.14 "Go, for I have chosen this man to be my special vessel." $\qquad$
1.15 Ananias proved to be a true Christian friend. $\qquad$
1.16 Saul's sight was restored. $\qquad$
1.17 He proclaimed Christ as the Son of God! $\qquad$
1.18 The elders of Damascus were astonished at Saul's conversion. $\qquad$
1.19 They asked, "Has this man gone mad?" $\qquad$
1.20 Saul remained in Damascus for a time, preaching and teaching about Jesus Christ.

Declarative sentences. The preceding sentences, when read in sequence, tell a story. Notice that half of the sentences are declarative. In most examples of written English, half or more of the sentences are declarative,

Declarative sentences declare. They may tell, explain, state, describe, define, or illustrate.

Write five declarative sentences. Remember to begin each sentence with a capital letter. Use the proper end punctuation.

Example: Spring wildflowers cover the hills.
1.21
1.22
1.23
1.24
1.25

Interrogative sentences. If declarative sentences are so important, why are the other three types needed? Could the story of Saul's conversion (Acts 9:1-20) have been told using only declarative sentences? It probably could have, but sentences that ask questions are important also.

Interrogative sentences ask questions. They may request information, seek directions, or ask for explanations.

If the English language made no provision for asking questions, you might be able to express your desire for a tangible object by touching it
or pointing to it and then to yourself. Asking for something not present or not visible would be much more difficult. Asking about something abstract, such as faith, religion, loyalty, or patriotism, would be impossible.

Interrogative sentences usually do not follow a simple subject-verb pattern. A question may begin with an interrogative pronoun: who, which, or what.

Example: Who left this chair in the aisle? Interrogative sentences may also begin with adverbs, such as what, where, when, or how.

Example: How do you know?

Write six interrogative sentences. Begin each question with one of the interrogative pronouns or one of the preceding adverbs. Remember to capitalize and punctuate correctly.

### 1.26

1.27
1.28
1.29
1.30
1.31

Questions may also begin with auxiliary (or helping) verbs. Auxiliary verbs are used to express meanings that a single verb by itself could not express.

Learn to recognize these important auxiliary verbs:

| shall | would | has | am |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| will | should | had | is |
| may | must | do | was |
| can | might | does | were |
| could | have | did | are |

## Examples:

- Shall I go with you?
- Did you finish?
- Is Sharon going with us?

Notice that in a question that begins with an auxiliary verb, the main verb and its helper are split or divided by a noun or a pronoun (the subject).

Rewrite these sentences. Change each statement to a question by introducing the sentence with the auxiliary verb. Divide the main verb and its helper with the correct noun or pronoun. Remember to punctuate correctly.

Example: Tom is going to the game.
Is Tom going to the game?
1.32 You have finished your report.
1.33 Cats can climb trees.
1.34 I must go to bed now.
1.35 I may have a slice of pie.
1.36 You can return your library book.

N
Write five interrogative sentences. Begin each question with an auxiliary verb. Remember to punctuate correctly.
1.37 $\qquad$
1.38 $\qquad$
1.39 $\qquad$
1.40 $\qquad$
1.41

Imperative sentences. An imperative sentence gives a command or an order or a very urgent request. Imperative sentences frequently do not have stated subjects. Rather, the subject is implied, or understood.

Example: (You) Close the door.
Direct commands are often expressed by the simple form of the verb.
Example: Finish the test.
Negative commands are often expressed with do not or the contraction don't.

Example: Do not go in the water.
Emphatic imperatives may be punctuated with an exclamation mark. Even though an exclamation point is used, the function is still imperative.
Example: Halt!


Polite imperative sentences use adverbs of courtesy, such as please, or auxiliary verbs. Softened or polite imperatives may be punctuated with question marks. These sentences remain imperative in function.

## Examples:

- Please come here.

Will you erase the blackboard?
The function of the sentence, not the end punctuation, determines whether the sentence is imperative.

Write five imperative sentences. Use a variety of the patterns given in the preceding examples with the proper punctuation.

### 1.42

1.43
1.44
1.45
1.46

Exclamatory sentences. Exclamatory sentences express strong feelings or emotions or emphatic statements of facts or opinion. An exclamation may be only one word, a phrase, or a fully developed sentence.

## Examples:

- Oh!
- At last!
- How fortunate you are!

Notice that exclamatory sentences are punctuated with exclamation marks.

Can a single word or a phrase (as in the first two preceding examples) truly be considered
a sentence? Even the experts do not always agree. Many experts say that even though the words lack the subject and predicate that traditionally characterize the sentence, the meaning is clear and independent. Therefore, such oneword imperatives or phrase imperatives and exclamations are considered to be sentences.

The occasional use of exclamatory sentences not only lends emphasis to ideas, but it also adds variety to a piece of writing. However, you should guard against scattering exclamation points throughout your writing just for the sake of variety. The use of too many exclamation marks actually decreases emphasis. Usually only an immature or inexperienced writer makes this mistake.

Write five exclamatory sentences. For this exercise, write fully developed sentences, not just single words or phrases.
Example: The house is on fire!
1.47
1.48
1.49
1.50
1.51

Complete these statements.
1.52 A sentence that tells something about the subject is a $\qquad$ sentence.
1.53 An $\qquad$ sentence asks a question.
1.54 A sentence that expresses a command is an $\qquad$ sentence.
1.55 A sentence that expresses strong feeling is an $\qquad$ sentence.
1.56 Something that is capable of being touched is $\qquad$ .
1.57 Meanings that a single verb by itself could not express are expressed by
$\qquad$ .
1.58 An exclamatory sentence is punctuated with an $\qquad$ .
1.59 An interrogative sentence is punctuated with a $\qquad$ .
1.60 A declarative sentence is punctuated with a $\qquad$ .
1.61 An imperative sentence is most often punctuated with a $\qquad$ .

## SELF TEST 1

Match the term with the definition (each answer, 2 points).
$\qquad$ interrogative pronoun
1.02 $\qquad$ implied
1.03
1.04
$\qquad$ comma-splice sentence
1.05
1.06 $\qquad$ coordinating conjunctions
1.07
1.08
1.09 $\qquad$ declarative sentence
1.010 $\qquad$ sentence
a. group of words expressing a complete thought
b. makes a statement about the subject
c. asks a question
d. expresses a command
e. expresses strong feeling
f. who, which, or what
g. expresses meanings that a single verb by itself could not express
h. something that is not stated
i. adverbs of courtesy
j. negative command
k. words that are punctuated as a sentence but do not express a complete thought
I. two or more complete sentences joined by a comma
m. and, but, for, or, and nor

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).
1.011 Three of the most serious sentence errors are a. $\qquad$ ,
b. $\qquad$ , and c. $\qquad$ .
1.012 The function of an imperative sentence is $\qquad$ .
1.013 The words don't or do not are often used to express a $\qquad$ .
1.014 Depending upon the tone, an imperative sentence can be punctuated with $a(n)$
a. $\qquad$ , $a(n) b$. $\qquad$ , or a(n)
c. $\qquad$ .
1.015 Overuse of exclamation marks in written English $\qquad$ .

Place the proper end punctuation on the line following each sentence and write the sen-
tence type according to function in the parentheses (each answer, 2 points).
1.016 How many seashells did you find a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )
1.017 Look out for that car a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )
1.018 What a close call we had a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )
1.019 The ink stain will not come out a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )
1.020 Please help arrange the chairs a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$
1.021 If I do not hurry, I will miss my bus a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )
1.022 Would you close the window, please a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )
1.023 Have you had your lunch a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )
1.024 Fruit trees bordered the pasture a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )
1.025 Do not stand up in the boat a. $\qquad$ b. ( $\qquad$ )

Identify the correct sentences and the sentence errors. In the parentheses write complete, run-on, fragment, or comma-splice (each answer, 3 points).
1.026 Finally we were all ready to board the plane. ( $\qquad$ )
1.027 After we took down the tent. ( $\qquad$ )
1.028 Does snow often fall where you live? ( $\qquad$ )
1.029 Even though the paint does not look wet. ( $\qquad$ )
1.030 A strong wind came up and the boats broke loose from the dock and they drifted away. ( $\qquad$ )
1.031 If you can hit a line drive. ( $\qquad$ )
1.032 Did you leave the porch light on, we will not be home until late tonight.
( $\qquad$ )
1.033 What Bible verse did you memorize? ( $\qquad$ )
1.034 I cannot see to study and it is too dark in here. ( $\qquad$ )
1.035 Because the runner was out of bounds. ( $\qquad$ )

Correct the sentence errors. Choose any five of the sentence errors (1.026-1.035).
Rewrite each one, correcting the error (each answer, 5 points).
1.036 $\qquad$
1.037
1.038 $\qquad$
$\qquad$
1.039 $\qquad$
$\qquad$
1.040 $\qquad$
$\qquad$

114
 $\qquad$ TEACHER $\qquad$
initials

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