

- Don't change the meaning.
- Don't leave out information.
- Don't use too much of the original wording.
- Don't copy the original.

Original Sentence:

Sometimes students plagiarize material from lectures and reading passages because they don't understand how to make the appropriate changes for an excellent paraphrase.

- **Don't Change the Meaning**

This is not an excellent paraphrase because the meaning has been changed from the original:

On occasion, students use paraphrases of excellent lectures and reading passages without understanding the purpose of the changes that they have made in them.

- **Don't Leave out Important Information**

This is not an excellent paraphrase because it does not include all of the important information in the original:

On occasion, students use lecture and reading material verbatim.

↳ Repeating the actual words than write spoken or written

- **Don't Use Too Much of the Original Wording**

This is not an excellent paraphrase because it looks and sounds too much like the original:

On occasion, students plagiarize material from lectures and reading passages because they don't comprehend how to make the necessary changes for an excellent paraphrase.

- **Don't Copy the Original**

→→ This is **not** an excellent paraphrase because it is an exact copy of the original.

Sometimes students plagiarize material from lectures and reading passages because they don't understand how to make the appropriate changes for an excellent paraphrase.

Exercise¹:

Try to find the problem in each paraphrase and edit it. The first one is completed to give you an example. Example answers are mentioned after the exercise.

Example:

Original: *Tides are caused by the gravitational pull of both the Sun and the Moon.*

Paraphrase: *Tides are produced by the gravitational pull of both the Sun and the Moon.*

Problem: *The paraphrase is too much like the original. Only one word was changed.*

¹ *ibid*

Edited Paraphrase: The combined gravitational effects of the Sun and Moon produce tides on the Earth.

Why is this better? Because synonyms have been substituted, and an alternative grammatical structure has been used, but the meaning has not changed.

1. **Original:** Proteins are molecules that regulate the movement of materials across cell walls.

Paraphrase: Molecules that regulate the movement of materials across cell walls are proteins.

2. **Original:** The invention of the steam engine played a major role in the Industrial Revolution because it caused the factory system to extend itself to many areas of production apart from the cotton industry.

Paraphrase: The invention of the steam engine was a primary influence in the Industrial Revolution.

3. **Original:** Although big companies are trying to maintain a balance between traditional advertising and some of the newer alternatives like blogging, it is often the smaller entrepreneurs who are using bloggers as an efficient way to stack their competition.

Paraphrase: Big companies are using bloggers to defeat their smaller rivals.

4. **Original:** Fossils of bones have the appearance of stone, but the holes and pores are actually infused with mineral deposits from the surrounding sediments.

Paraphrase: Fossils of bones look like stone, but there are mineral deposits from the surrounding sediments in the holes and pores.

5. **Original:** Pictograms found in many parts of the world about 1500 B.C. constitute the earliest system of writing, although written symbols have been discovered that date from as early as 3500 B.C.

Paraphrase: Pictograms found in various parts of the world are the earliest evidence of a written system despite the discovery of written symbols.

6. **Original:** The modern atmosphere is probably the fourth atmosphere in the history of the Earth.

Paraphrase: The modern atmosphere is probably the fourth atmosphere in the history of the Earth.

7. **Original:** Whereas alcohol is a depressant, coffee is a stimulant.

Paraphrase: Alcohol is not like coffee.

8. **Original:** The Pacific Basin, which includes the continent of Australia and the thousands of islands grouped together as Oceania, covers one third of the surface of the Earth.

Paraphrase: The Pacific Basin is also called Oceania because it encompasses one third of the Pacific Ocean.

9. **Original:** In fresco painting, the pigments maybe mixed with water and applied to the plaster before it dries so that the lime in the plaster fuses with the pigments on the surface.

Paraphrase: The lime in wet plaster bonds with the pigments on the surface when the colors are mixed.

10. **Original:** As Linnaeus originally conceived the biological classification chart, he segregated all living creatures solely according to their degree of physical similarity.

Paraphrase: Linnaeus originally created the biological classification chart by categorizing all living creatures according to their degree of physical similarity.

Answers:

1. **Problem:** The paraphrase is too much like the original. Only the subject and complement have been reversed in this alternative grammatical structure.

Edited Paraphrase: Molecules that function as regulators in the transmission of substances across cell walls are known as proteins.

Why is this better? Because synonyms have been substituted for all the nontechnical vocabulary and the subject and complement are reversed in an alternative grammatical structure.

2. **Problem:** The paraphrase is not complete. Information about the factory system and the cotton industry are not included.

*1 company 2 The activity of starting and running business.
3 The ability to think of new ideas*

Edited Paraphrase: The factory system spread across a large number of enterprises in addition to cotton manufacturing as a result of the introduction of steam engines.

Why is this better? Because the relationship between cause and effect has been retained using different vocabulary and grammar.

3. **Problem:** The paraphrase is not correct. The meaning has been changed.

Edited Paraphrase: Small enterprises are frequently using bloggers to compete effectively with large businesses that are still employing more conventional marketing strategies as well as some of the more recent options.

Why is this better? Because the meaning of the original sentence has been retained.

4. **Problem:** The paraphrase is too much like the original. Too many words and phrases are the same, and the grammatical structure is too similar.

Edited Paraphrase: Although fossilized bones may look like stone, minerals from sedimentary material fill the spaces.

Why is this better? Because synonyms have been substituted for all the nontechnical vocabulary, and the subject and complement are reversed in an alternative grammatical structure.

5. **Problem:** The paraphrase is incomplete. The dates are important here.

Edited Paraphrase: About 3500 B.C., two thousand years before written symbols were introduced in 1500 B.C., the first pictographic writing system appeared simultaneously in various regions of the known world.

Why is this better? Because the chronology is not clear without a time frame. The date solves this problem.

6. **Problem:** This is not a paraphrase. It is copied directly from the original.

Edited Paraphrase: In all likelihood, the Earth's current atmosphere was preceded by three earlier atmospheres.

Why is this better? Because copying directly from a source is the worst kind of plagiarism. Even when you are in a hurry, be sure that you are not copying.

7. **Problem:** This is not a paraphrase. It is too general.

Edited Paraphrase: Alcohol depresses the central nervous system, but coffee increases neural transmission.

Why is this better? Because details are necessary for a paraphrase to be specific. A general statement does not include enough information.

8. **Problem:** This paraphrase changes the meaning of the original statement.

Edited Paraphrase: Australia and the islands of Oceania comprise the Pacific Basin, an area that encompasses about 33 percent of the Earth's surface.

Why is this better? Because this paraphrase retains the original meaning. The area is one third of the surface of the Earth, not one third of the Pacific Ocean.

9. **Problem:** The paraphrase is incomplete. It does not identify the process as fresco painting.

Edited Paraphrase: The lime in wet plaster bonds with the colors on the surface when the paints are mixed for frescos.

Why is this better? Because the process described in the paraphrase is identified as fresco painting.

10. **Problem:** The paraphrase is too much like the original. Too many words and phrases are repeated.

Edited Paraphrase: The Linnaean chart used to classify all biological species was initially created to categorize each specimen in conformity with its resemblance to other organisms.

Why is this better? Because the edited paraphrase retains the meaning of the original, but the words and phrases are different, and the grammatical structure is changed.

D) Use Strong Verbs to Report Ideas

Sometimes you will want to refer to the ideas and research of others without using a direct quotation. When the ideas are specific to an author or researcher, it is still necessary to cite the source. Choose verbs that report the idea and convey the meaning that you wish to attach to the idea. You may choose verbs that express doubt, neutrality, or certainty.

Doubtful

Assume

Believe

Claim

Imply = suggest

Predict

Propose

Suggest

Suppose

Suspect

Allege

↳ to say sth is true
⊗ although it has not
been proven

Neutral

Illustrate

Mention

Note

Observe

Point out

Report

Say

Show

State

Indicate

Certain

Argue

Assert

Conclude

Confirm

Demonstrate

Discover

Find

Maintain

Verify

Advance

6. Punctuation

Punctuation—the use of special marks that you add to writing to separate phrases and sentences, to show that something is a question, etc—plays a significant role in your getting a high score in such tests as TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, and GMAT, to name but a handful. Take these two sentences as an example to see how a minor change in punctuation changes the whole meaning within a sentence.

*A woman, **without her man**, is nothing.*

*A woman, **without her**, man is nothing.*

Therefore, it stands to reason that a test taker does his or her best to master them. In order for you to become proficient in using punctuations properly, you are supposed to be familiar with some definitions that will follow.

6.1 Four Important Definitions

A) Sentence

A sentence is a group of words that has at least a subject, Noun Phrase, and a predicate, Verb Phrase. More importantly, however, a sentence is an expression of an idea. Sentences can be one word long or one paragraph long - the only true common element is that the listener gets information. Moreover, a written sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation mark.

---My parents went to the airport.

Subject	predicate
NP	VP

There can be more than one subject in a sentence, but usually there is one main subject.

---My parents went to the airport, but I stayed at home.

Subject	predicate	Subject	predicate
NP	VP	NP	VP

Based on the definition provided for sentences, the above-mentioned example is one sentence composed of two independent clauses, IC, the result of which is a Compound Sentence.

B) Clause

Grammatically speaking, a clause is a group of words that has just one subject, NP, and one predicate, VP. They are either independent or dependent (adjective clauses, adverb clauses, or noun clauses). In this sentence "*my parents went to the airport, but I stayed at home,*" we have two independent clauses, IC's, which are joined by the coordinate conjunction "*but.*"

C) Phrase

A phrase is a group of words that form a unit within a clause, which functions as a single part of speech—noun, adjective, adverb, verb, etc.

---Camping in the rain is not fun.

Subject	Predicate
NP	VP

In this sentence, "*camping in the rain*" is a noun phrase that functions as a noun, and "*is not fun*" is a verb phrase.

D) Prepositional phrase

PP is a phrase consisting of a preposition and a noun or pronoun that comes after it. Prepositional phrases, abbreviated as PP in this book, function in two ways: either as an adverb or as an adjective.

---The book is on the desk.

NP VP

---The book on the desk is mine.

NP VP

In the first sentence, "*on the desk*" functions as an adverb of place, while in the second sentence it functions as an adjective modifying the noun book.

6.2 The classification of sentences

One traditional scheme for classifying English sentences is by the number and types of finite clauses:

A) Simple sentence: consists of a single independent clause with no dependent clauses.

B) Compound sentence: consists of multiple independent clauses with no dependent clauses. These clauses are joined together using conjunctions, punctuation, or both.

C) Complex sentence: consists of one independent clause with at least one dependent clause.

D) Compound-complex sentence: consists of multiple independent clauses, one of which, at least, has one dependent clause.

A) Simple sentence

Because they are simple, these sentences are not discussed here.

B) Compound sentence

A sentence that contains two or more clauses that can stand independently. The clauses are often linked by a conjunction. Compound sentences are made by three group of conjunctions that will follow:

a) Coordinate Conjunctions

For, and, nor, but, or, yet, so ⇒ FANBOYS

b) Correlative Conjunctions

Both...and; either...or; neither...nor; not only...but also

c) Conjunctive Adverbs

Contrast: *On the contrary, conversely, in/by contrast, (on the one hand, on the other hand), however, nevertheless, nonetheless, at the same time, still.*

Addition and Similarity: *In addition, additionally, also, furthermore, moreover, besides, likewise, similarly.*

Time: *Afterward(s), then, meanwhile, in/for the meantime, later (on), subsequently.*

Consequence or Result: *Thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, therefore, as a result.*

6.3 Punctuation of Coordinate Conjunctions

When connecting Independent Clauses, IC's, Coordinate Conjunctions are all preceded by a comma “,”. This is shown in following formula.

IC, FANBOYS IC

<input type="checkbox"/>	-----,	for	△-----.
<input type="checkbox"/>	-----,	and	△-----.
<input type="checkbox"/>	-----,	nor	△-----.
<input type="checkbox"/>	-----,	but	△-----.
<input type="checkbox"/>	-----,	or	△-----.
<input type="checkbox"/>	-----,	yet	△-----.
<input type="checkbox"/>	-----,	so	△-----.

Examples:

For: *I cannot give you an order for this car, for there is no demand in the United States for the type of car you sell. = Because there is no demand in the United States for the type of car you sell, I cannot give you an order for this car.* (We use “for” when there is a kind of deep philosophical reason; otherwise, we would be better off using “because.”)

And: *Gina intended to win the weight-lifting pageant, and that’s exactly what she did.*

Nor: *An incompetent manager cannot run a company appropriately, nor can he or she make a friendly relationship with their staff.* (After “nor” we have to convert the sentence into a question form)
They do not eat a lot of red meat, nor do they eat many dairy products.

But: *The lead actor was on crutches, but the show went on.*

Or: *You should study more, or you will fail the test.*

Yet: *The exam was hard, yet/but I did well in it.* (We use “yet” when there is a kind of surprise. “But” can be used in all conditions.)

So: *The house didn’t sell at \$300,000, so they lowered the price.*

6.3.1 Punctuation of “and”: “And” has four punctuations that will follow.

1. IC, and IC
2. Phrase and Phrase → Noun and Noun/Adjective and Adjective/Adverb and Adverb, etc.
3. Phrase, Phrase, and Phrase → Noun, Noun, and Noun/Adjective, Adjective, and Adjective
4. Phrase; Phrase; and Phrase

Examples:

1. These activities are canceled in the absence of automobile; consequently, we cannot sufficiently enjoy the beauties of our planet, and our activities are limited to our own vicinity.
2. Maria is the paragon of virtue and beauty. (No Comma when there are only two items) *The area around a particular place.*
3. My \$10 million estate is to be split among my husband, daughter, son, and nephew.
4. The aims of the European Economic Community are to eliminate tariffs between member countries; to develop common policies for agriculture, labor, ^{دولة} welfare, trade, and transportation; and to abolish trusts and cartels.

→→ In the last example, a semicolon (;) rather than a comma is used. This is because there are already some commas in the second phrase, so a semicolon is used in order to avoid ambiguity.

6.4 Punctuation of Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions also link similar words or word groups, phrases, but they are always used in pairs.

1. **Both phrase and phrase**—*both...and...* is never followed by Independent Clauses.

*I hope you find The Blue Book to be **both** enjoyable **and** invaluable.*

✗ **Wrong** The microprocessor provides **both** radiometer control functions **and** formats the data.

NP

VP

✓ **Correct** The microprocessor **both** controls the radiometer **and** formats the data.

VP

VP

2. **Either NP or NP**

Either VP or VP

Either IC, or IC

Examples:

*I'm going to buy **either** a camera **or** a CD player with the money.*

***Either** he is going to get a job here, **or** he is going to study abroad.*

3. **Neither NP nor NP**

Neither VP nor VP

Neither Auxiliary verb + Subject + Verb, **nor** Auxiliary verb + Subject + Verb

Examples:

*I **neither** knew **nor** cared what had happened to him.*

*He knew **neither** what to write **nor** how to write it.*

*He slowly stood up, looking **neither** unsettled **nor** surprised.*

*Neither **did** he **have any** money, **nor did he know** anybody from whom he could borrow.*

4. **Not only...but also...**

A) **Not only** + N + **but also** + N

Adj.

Adj.

Adv.

Adv.

PP

PP

B) Subject + **not only** + verb + **but also** + verb

C) **Not only** + Auxiliary verb + Subject + VP, **But also** + IC

Examples:

✗ **Not parallel** Tests were conducted **not only** in nitrogen **but also** oxygen.
PP NP

✓ **Correct** Tests were conducted **not only** in nitrogen **but also** in oxygen.
PP PP

He is **not only** a fast driver **but also** a good one.

Robert is **not only** talented **but also** handsome.

He writes **not only** correctly **but also** neatly.

Not only is he reliable, **but also** he is pious.

Not only did he study, **but** he **also** did the dishes.

Not only did he study, **but** he did the dishes **as well**.

6.5 Punctuation of Conjunctive Adverbs (CA's)

There are four punctuations for conjunctive adverbs, each of which is shown below.

1. ☐-----, However, ☐-----.
*My job is hard. **However**, I love it.* → IC. CA, IC.

2. ☐-----; however, ☐-----.
*My job is hard; **however**, I love it.* → IC; CA, IC.

3. ☐-----, ☐, however,-----.
*My job is hard; **I**, **however**, love it.* → IC./; Part of the second clause, CA, the rest of the clause.
*My job is hard. **I**, **however**, love it.*

4. ☐-----, ☐-----, however.
*My job is hard./ I love it, **however**.* → IC + [./]; + IC + [,] + CA.

→→ NB For the last structure, only six of the conjunctive adverbs can be used, that is, however, nevertheless, nonetheless, still, in contrast, and by contrast. Other conjunctive adverbs do not come at end position.

Contrast

- ☐-----./; In contrast, ☐-----.
- ☐-----./; in contrast, ☐-----.
- ☐-----./; by contrast, ☐-----.
- ☐-----./; conversely, ☐-----.
- ☐-----./; On the contrary, ☐-----.
- ☐-----./; on the other hand, ☐-----.

The previous conjunctive adverbs show 100% opposition between two things, so the **subject** of the first sentence and that of the second one must be **different**.

→→ "On the other hand" means *in contrast*.

For our parents, traditions were more significant elements in their lives, and they viewed customs as prominent values and were loyal to them. **On the other hand/In contrast**, the modern generation does not exhibit as much responsibility as our ancestors did to traditional aspects of life.

- ☐-----./; however, ☐-----.
- ☐-----./; nevertheless, ☐-----.
- ☐-----./; nonetheless, ☐-----.
- ☐-----./; still, ☐-----.

☐-----, At the same time, Δ -----.

Addition and Similarity

☐-----;/. In addition, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. Additionally, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. moreover, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. furthermore, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. also, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. besides, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. Similarly, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. Likewise, Δ -----.

→→ For the conjunctive adverbs “Similarly” and “Likewise”, the subject of the two clauses must be different. However, for *in addition*, *besides*, *moreover*, *furthermore*, *also*, and *additionally*, the subject of both clauses must be the same.

*Cars must stop at red traffic lights; similarly (= in a similar way), **bicycles** should stop too, but they don't always do so.*

*All of **his ancestors** were sturdy and long-lived; likewise, **he** is very healthy at the age 85.*

But

***Charlemagne** was an able military leader; additionally, **he** was an avid supporter of education and the arts.*

Time

☐-----;/. then, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. Afterwards, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. Later, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. Meanwhile, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. In the meantime, Δ -----.

☐-----;/. Subsequently, Δ -----.

Consequence and result

- ☐ -----./; hence, Δ -----.
- ☐ -----./; Therefore, Δ -----.
- ☐ -----./; thus, Δ -----.
- ☐ -----./; as a result, Δ -----.
- ☐ -----./; as a consequence, Δ -----.
- ☐ -----./; consequently, Δ -----.
- ☐ -----./; Accordingly, Δ -----.

Condition

- ☐ ----- Otherwise, Δ -----.
- ☐ -----, or Δ -----.

6.6 Punctuation of Adverb Clauses

An *adverbial clause* is a clause that functions as an adverb. In other words, it contains a subject (explicit or implied) and a predicate. They are introduced with Subordinating Conjunctions such as although, if, etc. A complete list of Subordinate Conjunctions is in the following box.

Time	when, whenever, while, as soon as, after, since, as, before, until	Whenever I had to speak in front of people, I was paralyzed by fear.
Place	where, wherever, everywhere, anywhere	I saw unfriendly, critical faces everywhere I looked.
Distance, Frequency, Manner	as + <i>adverb</i> + as as + <i>adverb</i> + as as as if/as though	She runs on the beach as far as she can. He visits his family as often as he can. I tried to act as if I were not afraid.
Reason	because, since, as	Since I need to make speeches for career advancement, I enrolled in a speech class.
Purpose	so that, in order that	I took a speech class so that I could overcome my fear of public speaking.
Result	so + <i>adjective</i> / <i>adverb</i> + that... such a(n) + <i>noun</i> + that... so much/little + <i>noun</i> + that... so many/few + <i>noun</i> + that...	At first, making a speech made me so nervous that I got a stomachache before every class. During the semester, I made so many speeches that I lost some of my fear.
Concession	although, even though, though	Even though I am a successful business executive, I still do not enjoy speaking in public.
Contrast	while, whereas, where	At social events, I like to talk quietly with one or two people, whereas my friend enjoys being in the center of a crowd.
Conditional	if, unless, provided (that), providing (that), on condition that, as/so long as	If I hadn't taken that speech class in college, I wouldn't be able to do my job well. Unless I have to give an impromptu speech on a topic I know nothing about, I feel quite confident in front of any audience.

Adverb clauses have three different punctuations, the details of which will follow.

1. If Adverb Clauses, AC's, come at the beginning of a complex sentence, they are all followed by a comma and then the main clause follows it.

AC, IC

When I was a student, I was very hard-working.

2. If Adverb Clauses come after the main clause, some of them are preceded by a comma, and some of them are not.

IC AC

I was very hard-working when I was a student.

3. The following Adverb Clause markers are always preceded by a comma.

- 1. Although, even though, though, notwithstanding, even if
- 2. While, where, whereas (only for contrast, not for time, place, or reason)
- 3. Provided (that), providing (that), as/so long as, on condition that
- 4. (,) as (especially when it means *because*)

IC, AC

We played football, although it was raining.

6.7 Punctuation of Appositives

An appositive is a phrase that modifies the word that precedes it. These phrases are usually Noun Phrase, Adverb Phrase, Adjective Phrase or Prepositional phrase, the punctuation of each will be mentioned here.

Appositives come between two: ... , ... , ...

... - ... - ...

... — ... — ...

... ~ ~ ...

(...)

Or between:

,

—

:

Let's see some examples concerning these punctuations.

*A manager's most outstanding characteristic, **being knowledgeable**, helps him or her to be successful in their business.*

Clinton, ex-president of America, was a democrat.

Clinton--ex-president of America--was a democrat.

Clinton—ex-president of America—was a democrat.

Clinton – ex-president of America – was a democrat.

Clinton (ex-president of America) was a democrat.

His trouble was money, the notorious root of all evil.

The main growth area has been the market for eight- to fourteen-year-olds, and there is little doubt that the boom has been fuelled by the bespectacled apprentice—Harry Potter.

There is a serious weakness in your whole scheme: lack of money.

To see more examples on the issue of punctuation, check the following chapter or consult either a good grammar book or a dictionary.

7. Common Errors

Fragments

Fragments are incomplete sentences that lack a subject or verb. Or, if the sentence does seem to have a subject or verb, the subject and verb appear in a subordinate clause rather than the main, independent clause.

Swam in the ocean. (no subject)

Frank in the ocean. (no verb)

Frank swimming in the ocean. (not an independent clause)

Correction: *Frank swam in the ocean.*

Fragments are harder to spot when they are next to real sentences, but they are still fragments.

Frank went to the beach. Swam in the ocean.

Correction: *Frank went to the beach and swam in the ocean.*

It was the last thing I thought I'd see. Frank in the ocean.

Correction: *The last thing I thought I'd see was Frank in the ocean.*

There are a few things I hate. Frank swimming in the ocean.

Correction: *There are a few things I hate. Frank swimming in the ocean is one of them.*

Practice with Fragments¹

1. *As I stood in front of the microwave, I recalled my grandmother bending over her old black stove. And remembered what she taught me: that any food can have soul if you love the people you are cooking for.*

Answer: *As I stood in front of the microwave, I recalled my grandmother bending over her old black stove and remembered what she taught me: that any food can have soul if you love the people you are cooking for.*

2. *The resort was full of attractions. Three swimming pools, four restaurants, five bars, and every game imaginable, including a life-sized chess set.*

Answer: *The resort was full of attractions: three swimming pools, four restaurants, five bars, and every game imaginable, including a life-sized chess set.*

¹ These practice exercises are from Diana Hacker's *The Bedford Handbook*, 5th edition: Instructor's Annotated Edition. Bedford Books: Boston, 1998: 480-81.

3. *We need to stop believing myths about drinking. That strong black coffee will sober you up, for example, or that a cold shower will straighten you out.*

Answer: *We need to stop believing myths about drinking—that strong black coffee will sober you up, for example, or that a cold shower will straighten you out.*

4. *On Sundays, James scrupulously read the newspaper's employment listings. Scrutinizing every position that held even the remotest possibility.*

Answer: *On Sundays, James scrupulously read the newspaper's employment listings, scrutinizing every position that held even the remotest possibility.*

5. *Sitting at a sidewalk café near the Sorbonne, I could pass as a French student. As long as I kept my mouth shut.*

Answer: *Sitting at a sidewalk café near the Sorbonne, I could pass as a French student, as long as I kept my mouth shut.*

Run-ons

There are two types of run-on sentences: fused sentences and comma splices. A fused sentence occurs when two sentences are fused or blended into one, without any punctuation. A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are joined together with only a comma, rather than with a comma and a coordinating conjunction. A comma is not sufficient to join two independent clauses. You must use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, for, so, nor, yet).

Frank was an orphan from Kentucky he didn't have any parents and lived in a foster home.

Correction: *Frank was an orphan from Kentucky. He didn't have any parents and lived in a foster home.*

He liked to spend his days at the beach no one bothered him there.

Correction: *He liked to spend his days at the beach. No one bothered him there.*

Sally went to the beach, she had a picnic there.

Correction: *Sally went to the beach, and she had a picnic there.*

The weather at the beach was rather windy, you had to keep a hold of your hat or it would blow off.

Correction: *The weather at the beach was rather windy, so you had to keep a hold of your hat or it would blow off.*

Practice with Run-ons

1. *Are you able to endure boredom, isolation, and potential violence, then the army may well be the adventure for you.*

Answer: *Are you able to endure boredom, isolation, and potential violence? The army may well be the adventure for you.*

2. *If one of the dogs should happen to fall through the ice, it would be cut loose from the team and left to its fate; the sled drivers could not endanger the rest of the team for just one dog.*

Answer: *If one of the dogs should happen to fall through the ice, it would be cut loose from the team and left to its fate, because the sled drivers could not endanger the rest of the team for just one dog.*

3. *The floor around the refreshment stand was sticky, I was lucky to make it away with both shoes on my feet.*

Answer: *The floor around the refreshment stand was so sticky that I was lucky to make it away with both shoes on my feet.*

4. *The center of the French Quarter of New Orleans is Jackson Square, this square is one of the most beautiful urban spaces in the United States.*

Answer: *The center of the French Quarter of New Orleans is Jackson Square, one of the most beautiful urban spaces in the United States.*

5. *We had planned to spend the last few days of our vacation at the beach, the hurricane, however, brought us home in a hurry.*

Answer: *We had planned to spend the last few days of our vacation at the beach; the hurricane, however, brought us home in a hurry.*

Capitalization

Capitalize words that are specific names. Do not capitalize a word just to give it emphasis.

st. petersburg beach is a place where many a love has been ignited, according to local Professors.

Correction: *St. Petersburg Beach is a place where many a love has been ignited, according to local professors.*

According to shakespeare's romeo and juliet, the Truest love is frequently a star-crossed love.

Correction: *According to Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, the truest love is frequently a star-crossed love.*

Practice with Capitalization

1. *Our academic year begins on a tuesday in early september, right after labor day.*

Answer: *Our academic year begins on a Tuesday in early September, right after Labor Day.*

2. *professor anderson offers modern american fiction 501 to graduate students.*

Answer: *Professor Anderson offers Modern American Fiction 501 to graduate students.*

3. *district attorney marshall was reprimanded for badgering the witness.*

Answer: *District Attorney Marshall was reprimanded for badgering the witness.*

4. *In time magazine robert hughes writes, "There are only about sixty watteau paintings on whose authenticity all experts agree."*

Answer: *In Time magazine Robert Hughes writes, "There are only about sixty Watteau paintings on whose authenticity all experts agree."*

5. *Refugees from central america are finding it more and more difficult to cross the rio grande into the united states.*

Answer: *Refugees from Central America are finding it more and more difficult to cross the Rio Grande into the United States.*

Possessives

To indicate possession, use an apostrophe before an "s." To indicate possession for a plural subject, add an apostrophe after the "s."

Sallys hair needed washing.

Correction: *Sally's hair needed washing.*

Ones need for companionship is second only to ones need for food.

Correction: *One's need for companionship is second only to one's need for food.*

The lifeguards tower chairs were empty due to the lack of people on the beach.

Correction: *The lifeguard's tower chairs were empty due to the lack of people on the beach.*

Practice with Possessives

1. *Roy managed to climb out on the drivers side.*

Answer: *Roy managed to climb out on the driver's side.*

2. *My father-in-laws sculpture won first place.*

Answer: *My father-in-law's sculpture won first place.*

3. *The puppy's favorite activity was chasing it's tail.*

Answer: *The puppy's favorite activity was chasing its tail.*

4. *Ms. Jacobs is unwilling to listen to students complaints about computer failures and damaged disks.*

Answer: *Ms. Jacobs is unwilling to listen to students' complaints about computer failures and damaged disks.*

5. *Sue worked overtime to increase her families earnings.*

Answer: *Sue worked overtime to increase her family's earnings.*

Tense Shifts

A tense shift occurs when a verb breaks the unity of the other tenses in the sentence. Be especially careful of shifting between past and present tenses with your verbs.

When Frank saw Sally sitting on her picnic blanket, his jaw drops and his eyes get all wide.

Correction: *When Frank saw Sally sitting on her picnic blanket, his jaw dropped and his eyes got all wide.*

Upon seeing Frank stand nobly above his glorious sandcastle, Sally fainted and had fallen backwards onto the ground.

Correction: *Upon seeing Frank stand nobly above his sandcastle, she fainted and fell backwards onto the ground.*

Practice with Tense Shifts

1. *The officers advised us against allowing anyone into our homes without proper identification. Also, alert neighbors to vacation schedules.*

Answer: *The officers advised us against allowing anyone into our homes without proper identification. They also suggested that we alert neighbors to vacation schedules.*

2. *Mother said that she would be late for dinner and please do not leave for choir practice until Dad comes home.*

Answer: *Mother said that she would be late for dinner and asked me not to leave for choir practice until Dad came home.*

3. *My hopes rise and fall as Joseph's heart started and stopped. The doctors insert a large tube into his chest, and the blood flowed from the incision onto the floor.*

Answer: *My hopes rose and fell as Joseph's heart started and stopped. The doctors inserted a large tube into his chest, and blood flowed from the incision onto the floor.*

a new cut

4. *The police told us that the island was being evacuated because of the coming storm. Also, take the northern route to the mainland.*

Answer: *The police told us that the island was being evacuated because of the coming storm. They also suggested that we take the northern route to the mainland.*

5. *The artist has often been seen as a threat to society, especially when they refuse to conform to conventional standards of taste.*

Answer: *Artists have often been seen as a threat to society, especially when they refuse to conform to conventional standards of taste.*

Subject-verb Agreement

Subject-verb agreement errors occur when the subject does not match up correctly with the verb. Usually the error occurs when the subject is singular and the verb is plural, or when the subject is plural and the verb singular.

Sally's took out the biscuits, butter, and jam that was in her basket.

Correction: *Sally took out the biscuits, butter, and jam that were in her basket.*

Frank made a sandcastle, along with a surrounding moat and turret, that was very eye-catching.

Correction: *Frank made a sandcastle, along with a surrounding moat and turret, that were very eye-catching.*

Practice with Subject-verb Agreement:

1. *High concentrations of carbon monoxide results in headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness, and even death.*

Answer: *High concentrations of carbon monoxide result in headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness, and even death.*

2. *Crystal chandeliers, polished floors, and a new oil painting has transformed Sandra's apartment.*

Answer: *Crystal chandeliers, polished floors, and a new oil painting have transformed Sandra's apartment.*

3. *The key program of Alcoholics Anonymous are the twelve steps to recovery.*

Answer: *The key program of Alcoholics Anonymous is the twelve steps to recovery.*

4. *SEACON is the only one of our war games that emphasize scientific and technical issues.*

Answer: *SEACON is the only one of our war games that emphasizes scientific and technical issues.*

5. *Neither the explorer nor his companions was ever seen again.*

Answer: *Neither the explorer nor his companions were ever seen again.*

Pronoun Agreement

Pronoun agreement errors occur when the pronoun and the corresponding subject do not match up. Plural subjects have plural pronouns, and singular subjects have singular pronouns.

If a boy wants to impress a girl, they better do more than build sandcastles.

Correction: *If a boy wants to impress a girl, he better do more than build sandcastles.*

When someone is lonely, they usually go on a picnic.

Correction: *When someone is lonely, he or she usually goes on a picnic.*

Note: The following pronouns are singular pronouns: anyone, everyone, whoever, someone, no one, nobody.

Practice with Pronoun Agreement

1. *I can be standing in front of a Xerox machine, with parts scattered around my feet, and someone will ask me to let them make a copy.*

Answer: *I can be standing in front of a Xerox machine, with parts scattered around my feet, and someone will ask me for permission to make a copy.*

2. *The instructor has asked everyone to bring their own tools to carpentry class.*

Answer: *The instructor has asked students to bring their own tools to carpentry class.*

3. *If anyone is caught smoking on the premises, they will be severely reprimanded.*

Answer: *Anyone caught smoking on the premises will be severely reprimanded.*

4. *David lent his motorcycle to someone who allowed a friend to use it.*

Answer: *David lent his motorcycle to someone who allowed their friend to use it.*

5. *An eighteenth-century architect was also a classical scholar; they were often at the forefront of archaeological research.*

Answer: *An eighteenth-century architect was also a classical scholar who was often at the forefront of archaeological research.*

Misplaced Modifiers

A misplaced modifier occurs when a clause is incorrectly placed in a sentence such that it appears to modify the wrong word.

Recovering slowly, the fainting spell that Sally experienced gradually diminished. (The fainting spell didn't recover slowly--Sally did!)

Correction: *Recovering slowly, Sally gradually returned from her fainting spell.*

Ever worried, Frank quickly ran towards Sally, very concerned about helping her. (Sally isn't very concerned--Frank is!)

Correction: *Ever worried and very concerned about helping her, Frank quickly ran towards Sally.*

Practice with Misplaced Modifiers

1. *The king returned to the clinic where he had undergone heart surgery in 1992 in a limousine sent by the White House.*

Answer: *Traveling in a limousine sent by the White House, the king returned to the clinic where he had undergone heart surgery.*

2. *The orderly confessed that he had given a lethal injection to the patient after ten hours of grilling by the police.*

Answer: *After ten hours of grilling by the police, the orderly confessed that he had given a lethal injection to the patient.*

3. *He promised never to remarry at her deathbed.*

Answer: *He promised at her deathbed never to remarry.*

4. *The recordings were all done at the studio of the late Jimi Hendrix named Electric Ladyland.*

Answer: *The recordings were all done at Electric Ladyland, the studio of the late Jimi Hendrix.*

5. *The old Marlboro ads depicted a man on a horse smoking a cigarette.*

Answer: *The old Marlboro ads depicted a man on horseback smoking a cigarette.*

Commas

In general, use a comma wherever you want to insert a light, natural pause. There are also specific rules to guide you in placing commas.

1. Use a comma after an introductory clause.

When Sally opened her eyes and looked around her she thought she was in a dream.

Correction: *When Sally opened her eyes and looked around her, she thought she was in a dream.*

Seeing Sally return to full composure Frank asked if he might have a sandwich.

Correction: *Seeing Sally return to full composure, Frank asked if he might have a sandwich.*

2. Use commas to set off non-restrictive clauses or parenthetical expressions. (A non-restrictive clause is a clause that does not restrict the sentence's meaning--it can be dropped without changing the meaning.)

The sandwich which was pickle and peanut butter with ketchup mixed in looked repulsive to Frank and made him almost vomit.

Correction: *The sandwich, which was pickle and peanut butter with ketchup mixed in, looked repulsive to Frank and made him feel ill.*

Sally who grew up in a small farm town in Nebraska said that's how everyone eats his or her sandwich.

Correction: *Sally, who grew up in a small farm town in Nebraska, said that's how everyone eats his or her sandwich.*

3. When joining two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, for, so, nor, yet), put a comma before the coordinating conjunction. (**Note:** an independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a full sentence.)

Frank said to never mind about the sandwich because he wasn't hungry and he proceeded to lay down beside Sally.

Correction: *Frank said to never mind about the sandwich because he wasn't hungry, and he proceeded to lay down beside Sally.*

Sally asked if Frank came to the beach often and he said today was in fact the first time he had ever visited the place.

Correction: *Sally asked if Frank came to the beach often, and he said today was in fact the first time he had ever visited the place.*

Practice with Commas

1. *When we arrived at Salou's beach we saw immediately that we were overdressed for the occasion.*

Answer: *When we arrived at Salou's beach, we saw immediately that we were overdressed for the occasion.*

2. *The man at the next table complained loudly and the waiter stomped off in disgust.*

Answer: *The man at the next table complained loudly, and the waiter stomped off in disgust.*

3. *Uncle Swen's dulcimers disappeared as soon as he put them up for sale but he always kept one for himself.*

Answer: *Uncle Swen's dulcimers disappeared as soon as he put them up for sale, but he always kept one for himself.*

4. *For the camp the children needed sturdy shoes which were expensive.*

Answer: *For the camp, the children needed sturdy shoes, which were expensive.*

5. *Ed's house which is located on thirteen acres was completely furnished with bats in the rafters and mice in the kitchen.*

Answer: *Ed's house, which is located on thirteen acres, was completely furnished with bats in the rafters and mice in the kitchen.*

6. *The helicopter with its 100,000-candlepower spotlight illuminating the area circled above.*

Answer: *The helicopter, with its 100,000-candlepower spotlight illuminating the area, circled above.*

7. *Norman Mailer's first novel The Naked and the Dead was a best-seller.*

Answer: *Norman Mailer's first novel, The Naked and the Dead, was a best-seller.*

8. *My youngest sister who plays left wing on the team now lives at The Sands, a beach house near Los Angeles.*

Answer: *My youngest sister, who plays left wing on the team, now lives at The Sands, a beach house near Los Angeles.*

9. *Evolution as far as we know doesn't work this way.*

Answer: *Evolution, as far as we know, doesn't work this way.*

10. *Naturalist Arthur Cleveland Bent remarked "In part the peregrine declined unnoticed because it is not adorable."*

Answer: *Naturalist Arthur Cleveland Bent remarked, "In part the peregrine declined unnoticed because it is not adorable."*

Semi-colons

If two independent clauses are closely related, you can join the clauses with a semi-colon rather than a comma and coordinating conjunction. You must be sure, however, that independent clauses are on both sides of the semi-colon.

Frank asked Sally out for a date that night she accepted enthusiastically.

Correction: *Frank asked Sally out for a date that night; she accepted enthusiastically.*

Sally didn't know what to wear all her clothes were torn and ratty.

Correction: *Sally didn't know what to wear; all her clothes were torn and ratty.*

Practice with Semi-colons

1. *At the outbreak of the American Civil War, many believed that the conflict would be over in a month, others had a dreadful premonition of the future.*

Answer: *At the outbreak of the American Civil War, many believed that the conflict would be over in a month; others had a dreadful premonition of the future.*

2. *The first requirement is honesty, everything else follows.*

Answer: *The first requirement is honesty; everything else follows.*

3. *Martin Luther King, Jr., had not intended to be a preacher, initially, he had planned to become a lawyer.*

Answer: *Martin Luther King, Jr., had not intended to be a preacher; initially, he had planned to become a lawyer.*

4. *Severe, unremitting pain is a ravaging force; especially when that patient tries to hide it from others.*

Answer: *Severe, unremitting pain is a ravaging force; especially when that patient tries to hide it from others.*

5. *America has been called a country of pragmatists; although the American devotion to ideals is legendary.*

Answer: *America has been called a country of pragmatists, although the American devotion to ideals is legendary.*

Dashes

Dashes are used to set off an additional thought in your sentence. This additional thought doesn't need to be an independent clause or complete thought at all. It can be a list, a clarification, a shift, an amplification—just some clause you wish to tack on to your sentence.

They decided to meet once again at the beach. But at midnight!

Correction: *They decided to meet once again at the beach—but at midnight!*

At night, they walked along the beach, looking up at the stars. A completely romantic evening for Sally.

Correction: *At night, they walked along the beach, looking up at the stars—a completely romantic evening for Sally.*

➔ Note that a dash is two hyphens: --, not one. MS Word usually combines these two hyphens into one long hyphen automatically, which is fine.

➔ For print mediums, do not put spaces around dashes. If you do, put spaces around both sides of the dash, or use a hyphen and add one space before and one after it.

Practice with Dashes

1. *Along the wall are the bulk liquids, sesame seed oil, honey, safflower oil, and that half-liquid "peanuts only" peanut butter.*

Answer: *Along the wall are the bulk liquids—sesame seed oil, honey, safflower oil, and that half-liquid "peanuts only" peanut butter.*

2. *Consider the amount of sugar in the average person's diet; 104 pounds per year, 90 percent more than that consumed by our ancestors.*

Answer: *Consider the amount of sugar in the average person's diet—104 pounds per year, 90 percent more than that consumed by our ancestors.*

3. *Everywhere we looked there were little kids. A box of Cracker Jacks in one hand and mommy or daddy's sleeve in the other.*

Answer: *Everywhere we looked there were little kids—a box of Cracker Jacks in one hand and mommy or daddy's sleeve in the other.*

4. *He took a few steps back, came running full speed, kicked a mighty kick. And missed the ball.*

Answer: *He took a few steps back, came running full speed, kicked a mighty kick—and missed the ball.*

5. *Everything that went wrong: from the peeping Tom at her window last night to my head-on collision today, was blamed on our move.*

Answer: *Everything that went wrong—from the peeping Tom at her window last night to my head-on collision today—was blamed on our move.*

Colons

Use a colon for three main reasons: (1) to introduce a list, (2) to introduce a quotation, or (3) to set up a second clause that answers the first. The one main rule with colons is that an independent clause must precede the colon.

They looked up at the constellations and could see a multitude of different patterns Orion, the Big Dipper, Cassiopeia, and the Bear.

Correction: *They looked up at the constellations and could see a multitude of different patterns: Orion, the Big Dipper, Cassiopeia, and the Bear.*

When Frank was confident he had Sally's respect, he asked her a big question "Will you marry me?"

Correction: *Frank was confident he had Sally's respect, he asked her a big question: "Will you marry me?"*

Sally answered briefly and softly: "Love is like an ocean wave. It rolls into shore from seemingly nowhere."

Correction: *Sally answered briefly and softly: "Love is like an ocean wave: it rolls into shore from seemingly nowhere."*

Practice with Colons

1. *The daily routine should include at least the following, twenty knee bends, fifty sit-ups, fifteen leg lifts, and five minutes of running in place.*

Answer: *The daily routine should include at least the following: twenty knee bends, fifty sit-ups, fifteen leg lifts, and five minutes of running in place.*

2. *My roommate is guilty of two of the seven deadly sins. Gluttony and sloth.*

Answer: *My roommate is guilty of two of the seven deadly sins: gluttony and sloth.*

3. *Faith is like love; It cannot be forced.*

Answer: *Faith is like love: It cannot be forced.*

4. *Carl Sandburg once asked three important question--"Who paid for my freedom? What was the price? And am I somehow beholden?"*

Answer: *Carl Sandburg once asked three important questions: "Who paid for my freedom? What was the price? And am I somehow beholden?"*

5. *Robin sorts the crabs into three groups; males, females, and crabs about to molt.*

Answer: *Robin sorts the crabs into three groups: males, females, and crabs about to molt.*

8. Making Connections¹

8.1 Strategies

- After determining the framework of your essay, further consideration must be given to the organization within the paragraphs themselves.

The first paragraph contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the main idea of the whole response• one key point• examples and/or connections to the reading	Supporting paragraphs contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• additional key points• examples and/or connections to the reading
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- When developing your points, make sure that the statements are well connected so that the relationships between ideas can be seen clearly.
- Use transitional words and phrases to indicate the relationships among ideas.
- Use appropriate expressions to indicate when citing the source.

8.2 Connecting ideas between sentences or paragraphs (transition words)²

Transitional expressions can be used to connect ideas between sentences or paragraphs. Different categories of transition words and phrases are presented below. Words in the same category are not always interchangeable.

A) To Add More Information

Additionally:

Charlemagne was an able military leader; **additionally**, he was an avid supporter of education and the arts.

Also:

The warranty covers all power-train components. **Also**, participating dealers back their work with a free lifetime service guarantee.

And:

The cure for bad teaching is good teachers, **and** good teachers cost money.

As well:

It is most often diagnosed in women in their thirties and forties, although I've seen it in many younger women, **as well**.

As well as:

She published historical novels **as well as** a non-fiction study of women in the British Empire.

¹ Mastering Skills for the TOEFL iBT (2nd Edition)

² Cambridge Preparation for the TOEFL Test (4th Edition).

Besides: (Preposition)

People choose jobs for other reasons **besides** money.

Besides: (Conjunctive Adverb) *informal*

The house was out of our price range and too big anyway. **Besides**, I'd grown fond of our little rented house.

Equally important:

You must have a good education, **but** practical training is equally important.

Finally:

Finally, the passage says that the effects of the surgery do not last long.

First, second, third, etc.:

1. There are two very good reasons why we can't do it. ~~**Firstly**~~, we don't have enough money, and secondly, we don't have enough time.

2. Even windmill generators have disadvantages: **first**, it has the same shortage of energy density as solar radiation, and it is much spread out; therefore, it needs vast lands and large generators. **Second**, quite a few birds are killed by turbines.

Further: furthermore

Butter sales have fallen because margarine has improved in flavor. **Further**, butter consumption has decreased because of links to heart disease.

Furthermore:

He is old and unpopular. **Furthermore**, he has at best only two years of political life ahead of him.

In addition:

The company provides cheap Internet access. **In addition**, it makes shareware freely available.

Indeed:

We have nothing against diversity; **indeed**, we want more of it.

I don't mind at all. **Indeed**, I would be delighted to help.

In fact:

Antibiotics will not help. **In fact**, they may make symptoms worse.

Last, lastly:

Lastly, the passage says that research makes professors better teachers.

Likewise: similarly

All of his ancestors were sturdy and long-lived; **likewise**, he is very healthy at the age 85.

Similarly:

A mother recognizes the feel of her child's skin when blindfolded. **Similarly**, she can instantly identify her baby's cry.

The cost of food and clothing has come down in recent years. **Similarly**, fuel prices have fallen quite considerably.

Moreover:

There is growing opposition to capital punishment. **Moreover**, there is now evidence that many executed prisoners were innocent.

Not only..., but also...:

1. The program provides **not only** theoretical classes **but also** practical training.
2. If this project fails, it will affect **not only** our department **but also** the whole organization.
3. **Not only do the nurses** want a pay increase, **but** they want reduced hours **as well**.

Not to mention:

Dave is handsome and smart, **not to mention** being a good athlete.

Too:

It's a more efficient system and it's cheaper **too**.

What is more:

The rent is reasonable **and, what's more**, the location is perfect.

B) To Present Specific Examples

Especially:

The surface is very slippery, **especially** when it has been raining.

For example: for instance

1. Offices can easily become more environmentally-friendly by, **for example**, using recycled paper.
2. The doctors gave numerous **examples of** patients being expelled from hospital.
3. Listed below are just a few **examples of** some of the family benefits available.
4. **As an illustration of this**, consider the following example.
5. He mentioned the recent events in the Middle East **by way of illustration** (=as an example).

For instance:

1. Car prices can vary a lot. **For instance**, in Belgium the VW Golf costs \$1000 less than in Britain.
2. We need to rethink the way we consume energy. Take, **for instance**, our approach to transport.

In this case, in another case:

In this case, several solutions could be tried.

Do not use **in this/that case** to refer to a particular aspect of something. Use **in this/that regard/respect**: *He supports the death penalty, and in that regard, (NOT in that case) I think he is wrong. Computers can search for information much more quickly than humans can, and in this respect, (NOT in this case) they are more efficient.*

In this situation:

What would you do **in this situation**?

Including:

A manager needs a variety of skills, **including** leadership and negotiating.

Namely: *that is; used when saying the names of the people or things you are referring to.*

We are to revolutionize the entire educational system in three main areas, **namely** having a particularly purposed university curriculum, training students for practically applying their knowledge, and finally assisting them to select their major with great care.

Notably:

1. A number of respected philosophers, **most notably** Leibniz, criticized Newton's theories.
2. The use of illegal drugs – **notably marijuana** – has increased in recent years.

Particularly, in particular:

1. This disease mostly affects women, **particularly** older women.
2. We are trying to raise awareness about the environment in general and air pollution in particular.

Specifically:

I want to explore the question of the cultural boundaries between different subjects. **Specifically**, I will look at what we mean by the terms "art" and "science."

To demonstrate:

1. The government now has an opportunity **to demonstrate** its commitment to reform.
2. His answer **demonstrated** a complete lack of understanding of the question.

To illustrate, as an illustration:

1. Let me give an example **to illustrate** the point.
2. The statistics are **a clear illustration of** the point I am trying to make.
3. **An illustration of** China's dynamism is that a new company is formed in Shanghai every 11 seconds.

C) To Clarify Information That Has Been Presented

I mean:

Unlike the Integrated Task, the Independent Task is personal. **What I mean is**, in the Integrated Task, other peoples' ideas are dealt with, while in the Independent Task, you present your own ideas and are supposed to explain your opinion on that issue.

That is to say: in other words, i.e., id est.

We are basically talking about an independent state in the territories that were occupied in 1967, **that is to say**, in the West Bank and Gaza.

In other words:

1. He was economical with the truth - **in other words**, he was lying.
2. The tax only affects people on incomes of over \$200,000 - **in other words**, the very rich.

To put it another way:

He was too trusting—or, **to put it another way**, he had no head for business.

Up to a point: partly, or to a limited degree:

1. Of course there is some truth in all this, **but only up to a point**.
2. The new traffic scheme worked **up to a point**, but it had its problems.

in this case:

I wouldn't normally agree but I'll make an exception **in this case**.

D) To Emphasize Information That Has Been Presented

Above all: *You say above all to indicate that the thing you are mentioning is the most important point.*

1. Children need many things, **but above all**, they need love.

2. Max is hardworking, cheerful, **and above** all honest.

Obviously:

Obviously, in contrast to adults, children have unconstrained resources of energy and vigor that should be controlled and led into the correct way.

As a matter of fact:

The burrowing owl is a protected species. **As a matter of fact**, it's an endangered species.

Undoubtedly:

Undoubtedly, public interest in folk music has declined.

Unquestionably/Without a doubt/Without any shadow of doubt:

Without any shadow of doubt, childhood, the most critical period of human life, can be affected by many external factors.

More importantly:

If we served more soft drinks, there would be fewer hangovers **and, more importantly**, fewer drink-driving incidents.

Without reservation:

We condemn their actions **without reservation** (=completely).

E) To Show Cause and Effect

Accordingly:

1. The cost of materials rose sharply last year. **Accordingly**, we were forced to increase our prices.

2. She's an expert in her field, and is paid **accordingly**. (= in a way suitable to her position).

For: because

He found it increasingly difficult to read, **for** his eyesight was beginning to fail.

As, as a result:

1. We asked Philip to come with us, **as** he knew the road.

2. Today, **as a result of** significant changes in the life style, some believe that the youth should spend youth in a better fashion.

3. Our graduates are in desperate need of additional training after the completion of their studies. **As a result**, what we need is placing more emphasis on practical issues besides what students learn theoretically.

For the simple reason that; for this reason:

1. I hate mobile phones, **for the simple reason that** it is now impossible to get away from them.

2. There is no spell check program to correct you in the exam. **For this reason**, you must still read over your work carefully.

Because, because of:

1. Many exam candidates lose marks **simply because** they do not read the questions properly.
2. Heavy industry developed so rapidly in Alabama **primarily because of** its rich natural resources.

Hence:

We must meet the deadline; **hence**, a decision is needed now.

Inasmuch as:

✖ **1. Because:**

Inasmuch as no one was hurt because of his negligence, the judge gave him a light sentence.

✖ **2. So much so that; to the extent that; to such an extent that**

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People greatly prefer to eat fast foods and utilize technology in order to fulfill their needs **inasmuch as** they would not like to take any trouble to perform their tasks.

Consequently; as a consequence:

1. Hitler believed that the Germans were the master race. **Consequently**, he set out to conquer all of Europe.
2. Animals have died **as a consequence of** coming into contact with this chemical.

✖ **In that:**

The film is unusual **in that** there are only four actors in it.

Due to (the fact that):

1. The team's success was largely **due to** her efforts.
2. The school's poor exam record is largely **due to the fact that** it is chronically underfunded.

Thanks to:

It was all a great success—**thanks to** a lot of hard work.

✖ **In view of (the fact that):** because

His chances do not seem good **in view of the fact that** the Chief Prosecutor has already voiced his public disapproval.

✖ **Owing to (the fact that):**

1. **Owing to** a lack of funds, the project will not continue next year.

On account of the fact that: because

✖ **On account of the fact that** the country was at war, all the young men were drafted.

So that: therefore, so

There was snow everywhere, **so (that)** the shape of things was difficult to identify.

Seeing that: You can use seeing that or seeing as to introduce a reason for what you are saying. (Mainly British, Spoken)

He is in the marriage bureau business, which is mildly ironic **seeing that** his dearest wish is to get married himself.

Therefore:

A number of the conditions in the contract have not been met. Our company, **therefore**, has decided to cancel the contract.

Since:

I'm forever on a diet **since** I put on weight easily.

Thus:

Most of the evidence was destroyed in the fire. **Thus**, it would be almost impossible to prove him guilty.

So:

The gravestones were covered with moss, **so (that)** it was impossible to read the names on them.

✦ **So much (so) that/Such that/To such an extent that/To the extent that:** You use *so much so that* to indicate that your previous statement is true to a very great extent, and therefore it has the result mentioned; to the extent that; to such an extent that; inasmuch as. تا آنجا كه

He himself believed in freedom, **so much so that** he would rather die than live without it.

F) To Compare or Contrast

Nevertheless: however

There is little chance that we will succeed in changing the law. **Nevertheless**, it is important that we try.

Nonetheless: however

"We really can't afford to buy any new equipment at present." "**Nonetheless**, we need to invest to keep up with our competitors."

Notwithstanding (Conjunction): although

1. He was still unknown, **notwithstanding** he had lived here many years.
2. It was the same material, **notwithstanding** the texture seemed different.

Notwithstanding: (Preposition)

Notwithstanding some major financial problems, the school has had a successful year.

The bad weather **notwithstanding**, the event was a great success.

On the contrary:

It was not a good thing; **on the contrary**, it was a huge mistake.

On the other hand: in contrast; by contrast; conversely

Practically, every resident of the city can be considered as cold-blooded, unwelcoming, and soulless robots rather than humans. **On the other hand**, one can enjoy the company of the righteous, warm-blooded, straightforward, and humble people in the country.

Still: however

The hotel was terrible. **Still**, we were lucky with the weather.

You're very late. **Still** (US also **Still and all**), I'm glad you're here now.

Where: While, Whereas, Meanwhile used to emphasize the difference between two situations, activities etc.

1. Sometimes a teacher will be listened to, **where** a parent might not.
2. Some people spend their spare time reading, **where** others watch TV.
3. Schools in the north tend to be better equipped, **while** those in the south are relatively poor.
4. Pensions are linked to inflation, **whereas** they should be linked to the cost of living.
5. **Whereas** in most of the world they drive on the right, in the UK and Japan they drive on the left.

Meanwhile: used to compare two things, especially if they are completely different and are happening at the same time.

The incomes of male professionals went up by almost 80%. **Meanwhile**, part-time women workers saw their earnings fall.

Yet: but

1. She was tired, **yet** she was a very gracious host.
2. She does not speak our language, **yet** she seems to understand what we say.

✖ **After all:**

1. In spite of what you thought was true or expected to happen
Union leaders announced that they would, **after all**, take part in the national conference.
2. Used to say that something should be remembered or considered, because it helps to explain what you have just said:
Prisoners should be treated with respect - they are human beings **after all**.

Although, although this is true:

The windmill is still in good working order, **although** it has not been used since the 1950s.

At the same time: however

We don't want to lose him. **At the same time**, he needs to realize that company regulations must be obeyed.

✖ **Balance sth against sth else:** compare, evaluate, consider, assess

You need to **balance** cost **against** benefit.

But:

The plant's leaves are big, **but** its flowers are quite small.

Compared to/with, In comparison, By comparison, As compared to:

1. In 1800, Ireland's population was nine million, **compared to** Britain's 16 million.
2. Is the human heart weak **in comparison with** the other organs?
3. **By comparison with** other European countries, car prices in the UK are very high.
4. After months of living in a tropical climate, Spain seemed cool **by comparison**.
5. 25% of school-age children smoke, **as compared to** 21% of adults.

Conversely:

Women suffering from anorexia are still convinced that their thin, frail bodies are fat and unsightly. **Conversely**, some people who are a great deal heavier than they should be can persuade themselves that they are 'just right'.

For all that: *In spite of what has been said, alleged, or rumored.*

There may be mistakes occasionally, **but for all that**, it is the best book on the subject.

However:

Some of the food crops failed. **However**, the cotton did quite well.

In contrast: By contrast (Conjunction)

The technology sector is doing badly. Old economy stocks, **by contrast**, are performing well again.

In contrast to: (Preposition)

The tunneling is ahead of schedule and ahead of budget, **in contrast to** most big infrastructure projects.

G) To Show Time Relationships**After, after a while:**

1. She retired from politics the year **after** she received the Nobel Prize.
2. It's a hard life, **but** you'll get used to it after a while.

Afterwards:

They separated, **and soon/shortly afterwards** Jane left the country.

As soon as:

As soon as the temperature falls to 70, the furnace is turned on.

At first: *to say what happened at the beginning of a period of time, when this changed later.*

At first, I was nervous, but I soon started to relax.

At last: Finally

At last the train arrived in the station...

At the same time:

The two runners reached the finish line **at the same time**.

Before:

It was several minutes **before** we realized what was happening.

Before long:

Other students joined in the protest, **and before long** (=soon) there was a crowd of 200 or so.

Currently:

Currently, the starting salary is around £20,000.

Eventually: *finally, ultimately:*

Eventually, your child will leave home to lead her own life as a fully independent adult.

Finally:

Finally, after ten hours of negotiations, the gunman gave himself up.

First of all, first, second, third, etc.:

The cut in the interest rates has not had very much impact in California for two reasons. **First of all**, banks are still afraid to loan.

Formerly:

1. He had **formerly** been in the Navy.
2. Churkin, 43, was **formerly** a deputy foreign minister.

Immediately (after): immediately following

He retired **immediately after** the end of the war.

Immediately before:

I cannot remember what happened **immediately before** the crash.

In the end (*Mainly Spoken*) *finally, after a period of time or thought:*

In the end, we decided not to buy it.

Initially: *at the beginning*

1. **Initially**, most people approved of the new scheme.
2. The damage was far more serious than **initially** believed.

In the first place: *firstly, to begin with:*

Of course I can't go. **In the first place**, I must work on Saturday. In the second place, I have no money.

In years to come:

In years to come, people will look back on the 20th century as a turning point in history.

In the future:

It may be useful at some time **in the future**.

In the meantime; for the meantime; meanwhile: *means in the period of time between two events.*

1. Eventually, your child will leave home to lead her own life as a fully independent adult, **but in the meantime**, she relies on your support.
2. It now hopes to hold elections in February. **Meantime**, the state will continue to be run from Delhi.

Last, last but not least, lastly:

Last but not least, planning is an indisputable part of a manager's duty.

Later:

She went to London and studied hard; **later (on)**, she became a doctor and married David.

Previously:

At that point, he was a teacher, **but previously** he had been in banking.

Simultaneously:

The stage version of 'The Butcher Boy' was written **simultaneously** with the novel.

Soon, soon after:

The plane was returning to the airport **soon after** takeoff when it burst into flames.

Subsequently:

She filled in the application on Monday; **subsequently**, she was invited to an interview on Friday.

Then, and then:

1. I will study medicine for 5 years; **then** I will be a doctor.
2. You give me your news **and then** I'll give you mine.

Thereafter: After that

1. 10,000 men had volunteered by the end of September; **thereafter**, approximately 1,000 men enlisted each month.
2. Sophie was born in France, **but shortly thereafter**, her family moved to the United States.


H) To Show Disagreement or Conflict: *Making a concession or compromise about a point*

Admittedly: *used when you are agreeing that something is true, especially unwillingly.*

Admittedly, I could have tried harder but I still do not think all this criticism is fair.

Albeit: although

The United States finally agreed, **albeit** unwillingly, to support the UN action.

 **Be that as it may:** *used to mean that you accept that a piece of information is true but it does not change your opinion of the subject you are discussing; nevertheless.*

Building a new children's home will cost a lot of money but, **be that as it may**, there is an urgent need for the facility.

But even so: nevertheless

He doesn't need the money. **Even so**, I must repay the loan.

I) To Point out Conditions

If:

If I were given the opportunity to reform something in my city, I would establish the best schools and colleges for the young.

Only if:

1. I will go to the meeting **only if** you go too.
2. The missiles can be fired **only if** the operator types in a six-digit code.

Providing (that): provided (that); if

1. He's welcome to come along, **provided that** he behaves himself.
2. The other banks are going to be very eager to help, **provided that** they see that he has a specific plan.

 **As/so long as: if**

I will give you the book **so long as** you return it.

On (the) condition (that):

I will come with you, **on the condition that** you don't wear those ridiculous trousers!

Unless:

1. We cannot understand disease **unless** we understand the person who has the disease. (If we do not understand...)
2. **Unless** some extra money is found, the theatre will close. (If some extra money is not found,...)

J) To Summarize or Conclude Something

In conclusion; to conclude:

In conclusion, walking is a cheap, safe, enjoyable and readily available form of exercise.

In conclusion, let me repeat my strong support for...

In sum, In summary:

In summary, with all this taken into account, I believe that the country rather than the city is the ideal place for living.

All in all; all together:

All in all, I feel we need to diversify due to...

We had a few problems **but all in all** the meeting was successful.

9. Sample Responses

These samples are not necessarily a very good sample, they might have problems addressing the topic, discussing both sides of an issue, and so on.

9.1 Corrected Samples in Which You Can See the Students' Mistakes and the Solutions Offered

16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents today are more involved in their children's education than were in the past. Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. **

As time passes and people become more developed, they become more aware of the importance of a child's proper upbringing since they are the corner stone of a successful society. Education plays a vital role in preparing children for the future, and parents being their guardians have a major role in their improvements. Therefore, I totally support this ~~mentality-idea~~ that nowadays parents have taken a significant part in their children's education life on account of many reasons, three of which are as follows:

The most important reason is that parents are more ~~knowledgeable-cognizant~~ of their role these days and ~~they~~ are eager to collect information about raising a child in different levels and their psychological and physical characteristics. They are more welcoming to getting help from specialists such as psychologists ~~either before having a child to decide whether they are ready for it or not,~~ or after it, to learn how to manage the problems that they face while dealing with children.

The second reason is the financial conditions of families today. The economic wellbeing of families is improved thanks to the industrial developments, ~~which makes more job opportunities and represent-provide/endow~~ people with an easier life. Furthermore, in today's world, women work alongside men and ~~they~~ have improved significantly in comparison ~~to-with~~ the past. Having gained this position in society, women have built up their self-esteem. The more self-confident they are, the more devoted they ~~are-become~~ as a mother. Additionally, in present times, people have fewer children, ~~which-thus, not only does this-puts~~ them in a better place economically, it offers them more time as well. Hence, they can dedicate more time to work with their children or to prepare the equipment and the situations necessary for their education.

Furthermore, there is the role of schools in involving parents in children's education. They have created an organization called "Parent-Teachers Association" in which they hold meetings with parents to discuss children's situation and to think of ways to improve their learning process. In addition, they plan different events for students to use their skills and make their potentials flourish. Additionally, teachers assign children ~~with-various projects~~ to perform with their parents, ~~this way and in so doing,~~ they can help children to do the job and teach them the skills they need; moreover, it will give them a chance to make stronger bonds with their children.

In summary, with all ~~these-this~~ taken into account, nowadays due to ~~well-informed~~ well-informed parents, their providing children with ~~of-~~ time and money, and their ~~cooperating~~ cooperation with school, they participate more to support their children to have a successful education. We all should be absolutely prepared for bringing a child into this world and ~~we~~ should always support them no matter what.

446 words

Mahsa Gholami: Azad Medical School of Tehran

17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In order to be well-informed, a person must get information from many different news sources. Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. **

Nowadays, the process of publishing the news ~~have~~ has ~~dramatically~~ become dramatically straightforward and convenient, by means of which a vast group of people are able to reach the news and ~~be~~ are aware of what is happening all over the world. Accordingly, not only does the number of the news sources which can provide the general public with up-to-dated information have increased, but also there ~~has become~~ exists a great deal of competition ~~between~~ among the medias in order to be a pioneer in distributing ~~the~~ accurate and valid news. People can reach ~~thesethis~~ this important information by trying to have access to different sources; ~~otherwise,~~ otherwise, they will be either left behind the stream of current news or be falsely and inaccurately informed due to the following arguments.

Approximately, every type of news, from sports to sociology and from science to diplomacy is immensely attached to politics. Since ~~the~~ political parties ~~are~~ are controlling the medias and ~~are~~ opposing oppose to publish the truth at the expense of their benefits, the information which can put their situation into a risk is eliminated, underemphasized, or altered. The demonstration of this ~~phenomena~~ phenomenon is apparent in ~~each~~ any society which is ~~going~~ having to have an election in ~~a while~~ the near future. The parties with more power and money occupy the mass media and ~~won't~~ will not allow the messages and the news of their impotent rivals to be conveyed to the public. However, there are some independent networks that provide people with valid and objective information and have remained trustworthy. Unfortunately, these sources are severely absent in ~~popular~~ mass medias; ~~therefore,~~ therefore, the more sources people follow, the more probable it is ~~probable~~ for them to find reliable references and be informed accurately.

The most significant merit of having different news sources is the fact that every piece of news has a numerous amount of details and extras, which cannot be sufficiently conveyed only through one source. Some references emphasize ~~on~~ general aspects of the news such as global effects and economic consequences of ~~the~~ different phenomena, while others go through the details and analyze the issue delicately. Access to the latter ~~can not~~ cannot be achieved so feasibly; a deal of time and energy must be spent in order to find an appropriate informant with precise information and data. This is gained not by ~~not~~ sufficing to the first source that one faces, but by studying as ~~much~~ many sources as one can find. As an illustration, studies reveal that a huge number of the patients who have ~~done~~ undergone an eye surgery are facing the post-surgery problems. In my opinion, this is happening due to lack of the patients' awareness. Although there had been manifold benefits in having their eye surgery, there were also some hazards and dangers involved that ~~one~~ they could be informed of by doing a proper and accurate research about the issue. My mother is one of the victims of this ignorance. No one can cast doubt on the fact that had she checked more sources in order to obtain information, she would not be suffering from the consequences of having the surgery now.

To sum up, I vehemently assert that individuals should not hesitate to ~~questioning~~ question the validity of the information they are given, ~~thereby~~ nor should they hesitate to ~~analyzing~~ analyze different sources and references.

528 words

Nahal Mohtashemi: University of Tehran

18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Do you agree that different clothes influence the way people behave? Use specific examples to support your answer. **

Exploring the way ~~the~~ people behave is a broad topic which depends on numerous parameters. As far as I am concerned, this phenomenon mainly relates to the psychological processes in the human mind. While some people refute the idea that wearing different clothes results in different behavior, I, based on my own experience, strongly subscribe to the idea that clothing extremely affects the way one behaves. The reasons I believe so are manifold, which will be discussed widely hereunder.

To begin with, people's attitude towards ~~the~~ different colors is widely varied from person to person, resulting in a wide variety of feelings one can have when he or she looks at different colors. Thus, wearing a ~~dress-clothes~~ with a specific color may bring about a particular feeling that absolutely has a great impact on one's behavior that ~~seldom-few parameters~~ has ~~have a parameter had~~ such this an effect. Although people are not the same, one, in general, may feel sad the day that he or she wears a black T-shirt or may feel euphoric the day he or she wears a colorful ~~dress-one~~ with a wide spectrum of colors.

Secondly, now ~~it~~ is worth stating the point that another crucial ~~parameter~~ element/factor in this phenomenon is that the memories one has had with that specific ~~dress~~ outfit. For example, when did they buy it? With whom did they buy ~~it~~ that dress? Or even the dress may be a gift from someone he or she has loved. In other words, the history behind the ~~dress-outfit~~ would totally affect the feeling one has when he or she wears ~~that~~ it, resulting in a great influence on their behavior.

Last but not least, I think it would be no exaggeration if I state that everyone has a very special ~~dress~~ outfit ~~that in which he or she~~ feels really comfortable in it. They absolutely have a piece of clothing that when they wear ~~it~~, they think ~~that~~ everybody is looking at them and they are attracting other people. Of course, this brings about confidence and happiness for the person. ~~Moreover~~ Thus, one who has self-confidence, thanks to his or her clothes, will certainly behave differently.

To sum it up, with all this taken into account, I totally have a penchant for the idea that the way one dresses ~~up~~ will change the way they behave. Thus, let's care more about what we are wearing, and not take the importance of clothing for granted, and make the most of it, which is a great behavior.

402 words

Alireza Mostafizi: Sharif University of Technology (SUT)

19. Some young adults want independence from their parents as soon as possible. Other young adults prefer to live with their families for a longer time. Which of these situations do you think is better? **

Every person experiences quite a few stages during his or her life, ~~which all of which them~~ necessitate certain decisions. One of these stages is the time when they should get separated from their parents to become independent. Although some people believe that young adults are supposed to spend a long period of life with their parents, I have a different point of view. As far as I am concerned, in order for the young to lead a well-balanced and successful life, they should construct their own life as soon as possible for a great number of reasons, three of which – that is – recognizing their goals, becoming financially independent, and having the ability to face problems are the most conspicuous ones.

To begin with, every human being has his or her private dreams as well as goals through their lifetime. Therefore, it stands to reason that, in order for the youth to reach the zenith of their wishes, they should make an attempt to find out and understand what they are looking for? These circumstances require them to be secluded to think about their likes and dislikes. Afterwards, they ~~are~~ will be able to make decent decisions and ~~do~~ act accordingly. Being apart from families carries a great number of advantages since it can contribute to the young to classify their needs, and consequently ~~found~~ find out proper ways to use. In spite of the fact that sometimes making a suitable decision can be ~~done~~ made ~~in-through~~ consultation with parents, I believe that the decisions ~~lonely~~ made on one's own decisions are of great ~~consequential~~ consequence and enjoy effective results in one's future.

Another reason for this view is that financial independence is seen more among the young people who want independence early in their life. ~~The~~ Statistics show the fact that the individuals ~~sharing being a mutual life with~~ in the company of their parents for a long time, are less likely to be prosperous than those ~~with solitude~~ who act independently in-as far as their financial aspect of their life is concerned. As a matter of fact, if the youth try to pave the way for being independent as soon as they consider themselves prepared for an independent life, they unconsciously will enhance their tendency to have their own business without any extraneous ~~inference~~ factors. This constant penchant for being independent influences other aspects of life.

Last but not least, ~~problems~~ there exist problems in the whole human life, and these dilemmas are an inevitable part of everyone's life. However, the question is to what extent a person will be capable ~~to~~ of encountering these hardships? This ability is substantially based on one's realm of independence. Patience and tolerance are the missing links in the life of the young people who used to rely upon their parents ~~in the past~~. By contrast, if these individuals live far from their families when they reach their maturity, they will ~~be faced~~ deal with drawbacks and weaknesses in an excellent fashion.

In conclusion, with all this taken into account, I strongly hold this view that it is better for young people to demand independence because they can consider their needs, strengths, and flaws very early on, and therefore try to build a proper place, which ultimately, culminates in living a happy life. Even though these conditions ~~at first may be seen~~ seem very difficult and unbearable at first, ~~but~~ who can turn a blind ~~mind~~ eye to the happiness which comes subsequent to these predicaments.

557 words

Anahita Alibalazadeh: Tabriz University

20. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Most experiences in our lives that seemed difficult at the time become valuable lessons for the future. Use reasons and specific examples to support our answer. **

I agree that difficulties teach people valuable lessons for the future. ~~F~~ For the reason that difficult situations give people the opportunity to scrutinize themselves and review their behavior so that they can get over/surmount the hard times. Additionally, in difficulties, people usually discover their ability to stand strong, to be patient, and to find the best solution.

For one thing, I believe that people usually learn to adapt themselves to different situations. When it comes to having a hard time, they would do the same thing; they would find a way to deal with it. For that matter, they would probably need to change some of their behaviors. They know that anger, depression, and extreme behaviors will not help ~~to~~ solve a problem effectively. Hence, they try to establish or improve some qualities that may help. For instance, a child might get really angry when the parents refuse to buy the thing the child insists on. However, if the parents stay consistent on their decision, soon the child will learn to keep calm and behave ~~--- him- or herself~~. This rule is the same in/applies to the adults on a larger picture scale~~for adults~~. Life is not always kind to us/cakes and ale. We cannot always meet our expectations, and therefore we need to give a pause and think how to handle it. We gradually end up with a great power and merits that pave the way for a better life in the future.

For another, when people face a misfortune in their life, they soon discover some of their characteristics that contribute to getting over the difficulty. They discover their inherent strength, patience, endurance, and so forth. For instance, when people ~~loss-lose~~ a close ~~person~~friend or an immediate family member, they find themselves more patient and strong than they were. ~~Or~~Alternatively, people with the experience of great pains, usually have great forbearance. All these features contribute to one's leading a better, prosperous, and honorable life, to make more logical decisions, and to manage the miseries in the future.

All in all, difficulties, misfortunes, failures, and so forth have an immense influence on our lives. All these unpleasant and tough situations edify our personality and improve the merits. We should try to grasp the lessons life sometimes try to teach us and use them properly for our goals.

383 words

Parisa Jalali: Shahid Beheshti University