

Review Exercises on Verbal Phrases

Note to students: These exercises are meant to help you review concepts you have already learned. Before beginning these exercises, you should have learned how to combine sentences and how to use all three forms of verbal phrases (-ing, -ed, and to-) If you are not already familiar with these concepts, please check with your instructor. You may find a short review of **tutorial 12** helpful.

Sentence Combining: Part One

Combine the short sentences below into one complete sentence by using a verbal phrase. **Be sure to write a complete sentence** and **underline** the verbal phrase. In this first set of exercises, the word underlined gives you a clue about what kind of verbal phrase to use (-ing, -ed, or to-)

Example:

- a. Many 19th Century thinkers argued that nature could never be evil.
- b. They were influenced by religious beliefs that all of God's creation is good.

Solution: Influenced by religious beliefs that all of God's creation is good, many 19th Century thinkers argued that nature could never be evil.

You must write the complete sentence to receive credit for doing the exercises. Be sure to punctuate your sentences correctly and underline the entire verbal phrase.

- 1. a. William Buckland, a 19th Century British geologist, wrote of the "joy" that all animals, including those eaten by lions, must experience.
- b. He was arguing that God would never allow any of his creatures to suffer.

Solution:

- 2. a. Many people to this day do not read or watch accounts of nature at its worst.
- b. They want to avoid thinking of how painful life can be.

Solution:

3. a. Students who pay attention in biology can feel extremely uncomfortable at times.

b. They are learning the truth about nature.

Solution:

4.a. For example, the ichneumon wasp is born in a less than pretty way.

b. It is born by eating its way out of a living creature that suffers horribly and very slowly dies.

Solution:

5. a. The living creature is paralyzed by a sting from a mother wasp.

b. The living creature must watch as the parasites slowly eat their way out of its body.

Solution:

6. a. Cats often torture mice for a long time before killing them.

b. They do this just to entertain themselves.

Solution:

7. a. Charles Darwin was also horrified by the suffering of many other animals and insects that he observed.

b. He wrote that he could not imagine a beneficent God who would allow creatures to suffer so much.

Solution:

8. a. Julian Huxley claimed that nature is as often “repulsive” as it is beautiful.

b. He was writing about female praying mantises devouring their mates.

Solution:

9. a. Darwin did not immediately give up the idea that the laws of nature might reflect some higher purpose.

b. He was hoping to find meaning in science.

Solution:

10. a. Darwin ultimately wrote: “Let each man hope and believe what he can.”

b. He was resigned to the mystery of creation.

Solution:

(Note: Facts for this exercise were drawn Stephen Jay Gould's essay "Nonmoral Nature," reprinted in his book *The Lying Stones of Marrakech*.)

Sentence Combining: Part Two

Combine each of the sentences below using verbal phrases. In each sentence, underline the verbal phrase. In this exercise, you will need to figure out the best kind of verbal phrase to combine the sentences.

You must write the entire sentence to receive credit for this exercise.

1. a. The first Tour de France took place in 1903.
- b. It was designed by Henri Desgrange to promote his French newspaper.

Solution:

2. a. The race immediately captured the attention of the French public.
- b. The race was testing participants to the limits of their endurance.
- c. The race was taking place throughout the nation.

Solution:

3. a. More than half of the 60 original participants gave up on the race.
- b. They were exhausted from the non-stop riding and miserable weather.

Solution:

4. a. Desgrange did not allow the riders to have any support, including mechanical aid.

b. He did this to make the race as difficult as possible.

Solution:

5. a. French fans came out by the thousands to watch.

b. They were excited to see French riders winning their national sport.

Solution:

6. a. Desgrange made a deliberate effort to recruit riders from other countries as well.

b. He was hoping to make the race popular throughout Europe.

Solution:

7. a. By the 1960's the race included riders from all over Europe.

b. It was changing with the times.

Solution:

8. a. Today, the race includes riders from the United States, Columbia, Mexico, Japan, and other countries throughout the world.

b. It is reflecting our globalized world.

Solution:

9. a. As of 2009, no French rider has won the tour since 1985.

b. This is to the dismay of many French sports fans.

Solution:

10. a. Today, more people watch the Tour than almost any other sporting event in the world.

b. People are thrilled by the international competition.

Solution:

Final Review Activity: On a separate sheet of paper, write **10 original sentences** with verbal phrases. In each sentence, underline the verbal phrase. You should also try to vary the placement of the verbal phrases: use some in the beginning of sentences, some in the middle, and some at the end.

