

My History with the Grammar Boot Camp

- Offered over the summer by the Writing Center Director at the Ozark Technical Community College
- Planned and lead a Grammar Boot Camp for legislative staff at the Missouri House

Personalize the Boot Camp!

- What are the unique rules for your state?
- What are the most common usage errors found in the work you write or edit?
- Does your state have a preferred word list?

My Motivation To Do This

- Taught that professionals are continually training and perfecting their craft
- Inspired by the CLE training required of attorneys
- Wanted to provide an example anyone at any stage of his or her career can use



Informal Poll

Was your last grammar class in college?

High school?

Grade school?

Somewhere else?

Do you think you would benefit from participating in one?



How Does One Learn Proper Grammar?

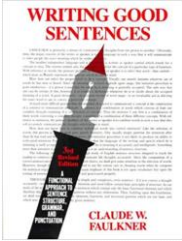
THE IMITATION GAME

What's a Grammar Boot Camp?

- In-depth transformational grammar course:
 - Sentence structure
 - Grammar
 - Punctuation
- Builds upon the foundation of basic sentence patterns
- Focuses on and studies the function or role of different sentence parts
- Includes exercises requiring writing that follows specific patterns

Finding a Grammar Book

Textbook I've used



Other materials used

- Garner's Modern English Usage, 4th Edition
- Purdue OWL
 - https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html
- Plain Language
 - <https://www.plainlanguage.gov/>

How I Planned It

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
Exercises 1-2	Exercises 3-4	Exercises 5-6	Exercises 7-8	Exercises 9-10
11	12	13	14	15
Exercises 11-12	Exercises 13-14	Exercises 15-16	Exercises 17-18	Exercises 19-20
16	17	18	19	20
Exercises 21-22	Exercises 23-24	Exercises 25-26	Exercises 27-28	Exercises 29-30
21	22	23	24	25
Exercises 31-32	Exercises 33-34	Exercises 35-36	Exercises 37-38	Exercises 39-40
26	27	28	29	30
Exercises 41-42	Exercises 43-44	Exercises 45-46	Exercises 47-48	Exercises 49-50
31	32	33	34	35
Exercises 51-52	Exercises 53-54	Exercises 55-56	Exercises 57-58	Exercises 59-60
36	37	38	39	40
Exercises 61-62	Exercises 63-64	Exercises 65-66	Exercises 67-68	Exercises 69-70
41	42	43	44	45
Exercises 71-72	Exercises 73-74	Exercises 75-76	Exercises 77-78	Exercises 79-80
46	47	48	49	50
Exercises 81-82	Exercises 83-84	Exercises 85-86	Exercises 87-88	Exercises 89-90
51	52	53	54	55
Exercises 91-92	Exercises 93-94	Exercises 95-96	Exercises 97-98	Exercises 99-100
56	57	58	59	60
Exercises 101-102	Exercises 103-104	Exercises 105-106	Exercises 107-108	Exercises 109-110
61	62	63	64	65
Exercises 111-112	Exercises 113-114	Exercises 115-116	Exercises 117-118	Exercises 119-120
66	67	68	69	70
Exercises 121-122	Exercises 123-124	Exercises 125-126	Exercises 127-128	Exercises 129-130
71	72	73	74	75
Exercises 131-132	Exercises 133-134	Exercises 135-136	Exercises 137-138	Exercises 139-140
76	77	78	79	80
Exercises 141-142	Exercises 143-144	Exercises 145-146	Exercises 147-148	Exercises 149-150
81	82	83	84	85
Exercises 151-152	Exercises 153-154	Exercises 155-156	Exercises 157-158	Exercises 159-160
86	87	88	89	90
Exercises 161-162	Exercises 163-164	Exercises 165-166	Exercises 167-168	Exercises 169-170
91	92	93	94	95
Exercises 171-172	Exercises 173-174	Exercises 175-176	Exercises 177-178	Exercises 179-180
96	97	98	99	100
Exercises 181-182	Exercises 183-184	Exercises 185-186	Exercises 187-188	Exercises 189-190
101	102	103	104	105
Exercises 191-192	Exercises 193-194	Exercises 195-196	Exercises 197-198	Exercises 199-200
106	107	108	109	110
Exercises 201-202	Exercises 203-204	Exercises 205-206	Exercises 207-208	Exercises 209-210
111	112	113	114	115
Exercises 211-212	Exercises 213-214	Exercises 215-216	Exercises 217-218	Exercises 219-220
116	117	118	119	120
Exercises 221-222	Exercises 223-224	Exercises 225-226	Exercises 227-228	Exercises 229-230
121	122	123	124	125
Exercises 231-232	Exercises 233-234	Exercises 235-236	Exercises 237-238	Exercises 239-240
126	127	128	129	130
Exercises 241-242	Exercises 243-244	Exercises 245-246	Exercises 247-248	Exercises 249-250
131	132	133	134	135
Exercises 251-252	Exercises 253-254	Exercises 255-256	Exercises 257-258	Exercises 259-260
136	137	138	139	140
Exercises 261-262	Exercises 263-264	Exercises 265-266	Exercises 267-268	Exercises 269-270
141	142	143	144	145
Exercises 271-272	Exercises 273-274	Exercises 275-276	Exercises 277-278	Exercises 279-280
146	147	148	149	150
Exercises 281-282	Exercises 283-284	Exercises 285-286	Exercises 287-288	Exercises 289-290
151	152	153	154	155
Exercises 291-292	Exercises 293-294	Exercises 295-296	Exercises 297-298	Exercises 299-300
156	157	158	159	160
Exercises 301-302	Exercises 303-304	Exercises 305-306	Exercises 307-308	Exercises 309-310
161	162	163	164	165
Exercises 311-312	Exercises 313-314	Exercises 315-316	Exercises 317-318	Exercises 319-320
166	167	168	169	170
Exercises 321-322	Exercises 323-324	Exercises 325-326	Exercises 327-328	Exercises 329-330
171	172	173	174	175
Exercises 331-332	Exercises 333-334	Exercises 335-336	Exercises 337-338	Exercises 339-340
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Exercises 341-342	Exercises 343-344	Exercises 345-346	Exercises 347-348	Exercises 349-350
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Exercises 351-352	Exercises 353-354	Exercises 355-356	Exercises 357-358	Exercises 359-360
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Exercises 361-362	Exercises 363-364	Exercises 365-366	Exercises 367-368	Exercises 369-370
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Exercises 371-372	Exercises 373-374	Exercises 375-376	Exercises 377-378	Exercises 379-380
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Exercises 381-382	Exercises 383-384	Exercises 385-386	Exercises 387-388	Exercises 389-390
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Exercises 391-392	Exercises 393-394	Exercises 395-396	Exercises 397-398	Exercises 399-400
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Exercises 401-402	Exercises 403-404	Exercises 405-406	Exercises 407-408	Exercises 409-410
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Exercises 411-412	Exercises 413-414	Exercises 415-416	Exercises 417-418	Exercises 419-420
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Exercises 421-422	Exercises 423-424	Exercises 425-426	Exercises 427-428	Exercises 429-430
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Exercises 431-432	Exercises 433-434	Exercises 435-436	Exercises 437-438	Exercises 439-440
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Exercises 461-462	Exercises 463-464	Exercises 465-466	Exercises 467-468	Exercises 469-470
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Exercises 471-472	Exercises 473-474	Exercises 475-476	Exercises 477-478	Exercises 479-480
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Exercises 481-482	Exercises 483-484	Exercises 485-486	Exercises 487-488	Exercises 489-490
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Exercises 491-492	Exercises 493-494	Exercises 495-496	Exercises 497-498	Exercises 499-500
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Exercises 501-502	Exercises 503-504	Exercises 505-506	Exercises 507-508	Exercises 509-510
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Exercises 511-512	Exercises 513-514	Exercises 515-516	Exercises 517-518	Exercises 519-520
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Exercises 521-522	Exercises 523-524	Exercises 525-526	Exercises 527-528	Exercises 529-530
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Exercises 531-532	Exercises 533-534	Exercises 535-536	Exercises 537-538	Exercises 539-540
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Exercises 541-542	Exercises 543-544	Exercises 545-546	Exercises 547-548	Exercises 549-550
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Exercises 551-552	Exercises 553-554	Exercises 555-556	Exercises 557-558	Exercises 559-560
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Exercises 561-562	Exercises 563-564	Exercises 565-566	Exercises 567-568	Exercises 569-570
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Exercises 571-572	Exercises 573-574	Exercises 575-576	Exercises 577-578	Exercises 579-580
296	297	298	299	300
Exercises 581-582	Exercises 583-584	Exercises 585-586	Exercises 587-588	Exercises 589-590
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Exercises 591-592	Exercises 593-594	Exercises 595-596	Exercises 597-598	Exercises 599-600
306	307	308	309	310
Exercises 601-602	Exercises 603-604	Exercises 605-606	Exercises 607-608	Exercises 609-610
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Exercises 611-612	Exercises 613-614	Exercises 615-616	Exercises 617-618	Exercises 619-620
316	317	318	319	320
Exercises 621-622	Exercises 623-624	Exercises 625-626	Exercises 627-628	Exercises 629-630
321	322	323	324	325
Exercises 631-632	Exercises 633-634	Exercises 635-636	Exercises 637-638	Exercises 639-640
326	327	328	329	330
Exercises 641-642	Exercises 643-644	Exercises 645-646	Exercises 647-648	Exercises 649-650
331	332	333	334	335
Exercises 651-652	Exercises 653-654	Exercises 655-656	Exercises 657-658	Exercises 659-660
336	337	338	339	340
Exercises 661-662	Exercises 663-664	Exercises 665-666	Exercises 667-668	Exercises 669-670
341	342	343	344	345
Exercises 671-672	Exercises 673-674	Exercises 675-676	Exercises 677-678	Exercises 679-680
346	347	348	349	350
Exercises 681-682	Exercises 683-684	Exercises 685-686	Exercises 687-688	Exercises 689-690
351	352	353	354	355
Exercises 691-692	Exercises 693-694	Exercises 695-696	Exercises 697-698	Exercises 699-700
356	357	358	359	360
Exercises 701-702	Exercises 703-704	Exercises 705-706	Exercises 707-708	Exercises 709-710
361	362	363	364	365
Exercises 711-712	Exercises 713-714	Exercises 715-716	Exercises 717-718	Exercises 719-720
366	367	368	369	370
Exercises 721-722	Exercises 723-724	Exercises 725-726	Exercises 727-728	Exercises 729-730
371	372	373	374	375
Exercises 731-732	Exercises 733-734	Exercises 735-736	Exercises 737-738	Exercises 739-740
376	377	378	379	380
Exercises 741-742	Exercises 743-744	Exercises 745-746	Exercises 747-748	Exercises 749-750
381	382	383	384	385
Exercises 751-752	Exercises 753-754	Exercises 755-756	Exercises 757-758	Exercises 759-760
386	387	388	389	390
Exercises 761-762	Exercises 763-764	Exercises 765-766	Exercises 767-768	Exercises 769-770
391	392	393	394	395
Exercises 771-772	Exercises 773-774	Exercises 775-776	Exercises 777-778	Exercises 779-780
396	397	398	399	400
Exercises 781-782	Exercises 783-784	Exercises 785-786	Exercises 787-788	Exercises 789-790
401	402	403	404	405
Exercises 791-792	Exercises 793-794	Exercises 795-796	Exercises 797-798	Exercises 799-800
406	407	408	409	410
Exercises 801-802	Exercises 803-804	Exercises 805-806	Exercises 807-808	Exercises 809-810
411	412	413	414	415
Exercises 811-812	Exercises 813-814	Exercises 815-816	Exercises 817-818	Exercises 819-820
416	417	418	419	420
Exercises 821-822	Exercises 823-824	Exercises 825-826	Exercises 827-828	Exercises 829-830
421	422	423	424	425
Exercises 831-832	Exercises 833-834	Exercises 835-836	Exercises 837-838	Exercises 839-840
426	427	428	429	430
Exercises 841-842	Exercises 843-844	Exercises 845-846	Exercises 847-848	Exercises 849-850
431	432	433	434	435
Exercises 851-852	Exercises 853-854	Exercises 855-856	Exercises 857-858	Exercises

Building upon that Foundation

- Anything can be modified
 - Anything can be compounded
- 2 other basic sentence patterns through compounding:
- Subject - Compound Predicate
 - Compound Sentence

Visual Example

Basic: The dog chased the rabbit.
 Subject -- Verb -- Object

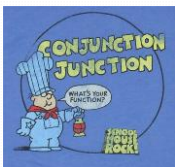
Modified: The large dog chased the rabbit.
 Modifier -- Subject -- Verb -- Object

Compounded: The large dog chased the rabbit and the squirrel.
 Modifier -- Subject -- Verb -- Compound Object

Function!

- What it does is what it is
- What are the parts of speech doing to the sentence?

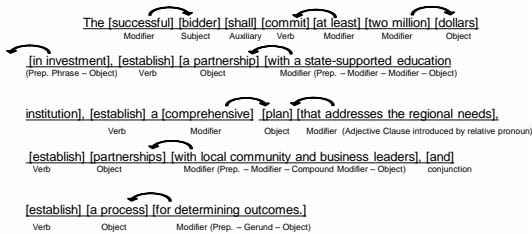
- 4 functions:
 - Substantive, for example nouns, pronouns, objects
 - Verb
 - Modifying, for example adjective, adverbs
 - Connective



Why Understanding Function Matters

- The ability to deconstruct complex sentences into its basic parts:
 - Allows you to see how each part relates to the other parts of the sentence
 - Makes it easier to see if the different sentence parts are correctly placed and convey what the writer intends
 - Makes it easier to see misplaced words
 - Makes it easier to combat wordiness
 - Makes it easier to replace multiword phrases and clauses
 - Makes it easier to turn a long sentence into a shorter, cleaner sentence or multiple sentences

Example of Deconstructing a Sentence



An Example of Putting It to Use:

A MO Statute Before Revision:

3. Subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section does not apply to any person nineteen years of age or older or eighteen years of age or older and a member of the United States Armed Forces, or honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces, transporting a concealable firearm in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle, so long as such concealable firearm is otherwise lawfully possessed, nor when the actor is also in possession of an exposed firearm or projectile weapon for the lawful pursuit of game, or is in his or her dwelling unit or upon premises over which the actor has possession, authority or control, or is traveling in a continuous journey peaceably through this state.

After Revision

3. The provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section shall not apply to any person who is nineteen years of age or older, who:

- (1) Is transporting a lawfully possessed concealable firearm in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle;
- (2) Possesses an exposed firearm or projectile weapon for the lawful pursuit of game in addition to possessing the concealed firearm;
- (3) Is in his or her dwelling unit or upon premises over which he or she has possession, authority, or control;
- (4) Is traveling in a continuous journey peaceably through this state.

4. The provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section shall not apply to any person who is eighteen years of age or older and a member of the Armed Forces or who has been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces, who:

- (1) Is transporting a lawfully possessed concealable firearm in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle;
- (2) Possesses an exposed firearm or projectile weapon for the lawful pursuit of game in addition to possessing the concealed firearm;
- (3) Is in his or her dwelling unit or upon premises over which he or she has possession, authority, or control;
- (4) Is traveling in a continuous journey peaceably through this state.

Time To Do Exercises

- We will do as many as time allows
- I will ask for volunteers to read their sentences out loud
- Group discussion on whether the sentences fit the pattern
