

FROM SENTENCES TO ESSAYS

A Guide to Reflective Writing through Reflective Thinking
Student's Edition

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Series in Education



VERNON PRESS

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www.vernonpress.com

In the Americas:
Vernon Press
1000 N West Street,
Suite 1200, Wilmington,
Delaware 19801
United States

In the rest of the world:
Vernon Press
C/Sancti Espiritu 17,
Malaga, 29006
Spain

Series in Education

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018947520

ISBN: 978-1-62273-636-2

Also available:

978-1-62273-585-3 Paperback

978-1-62273-627-0 E-Book

Cover design by Vernon Press using elements by Chevanon / Freepik.

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CHAPTER I–SENTENCES

In this chapter, you will learn:



- ✓ *about parts of speech and word order in English sentences*
- ✓ *the difference between sentence and fragment*
- ✓ *the importance of subject-verb agreement*
- ✓ *different types of sentences*

PARTS OF SPEECH

There are four major parts of speech in English: **nouns**, **verbs**, **adjectives** and **adverbs**. Other parts of speech include *pronouns*, *prepositions*, *conjunctions*, *determiners*, and *interjections*.

- Nouns refer to persons, things, and animals.
- Verbs refer to actions, events, and states.
- Adjectives describe nouns, and adverbs describe verbs.

NOUNS

Nouns can be either **count** or **noncount**. Count nouns have both singular and plural forms (*book/books*, *teacher/teachers*, *task/tasks*). Irregular nouns change their forms in the plural (*woman/women*, *child/children*, *life/lives*). In their singular forms, nouns are used together with the indefinite article *a* or *an*. Noncount nouns do not have plural forms (*information*, *knowledge*, *news*).

In addition, nouns can be either **common** or **proper**. Common nouns refer to people or things in general (*phone*, *country*, *week*). Proper nouns are the names of persons, places or things (*Jane*, *Australia*, *Friday*). Proper nouns in English are written with capital letters.

Nouns can also be **concrete** or **abstract**. Concrete nouns refer to physical people or things (*computer*, *notebook*, *desk*). Abstract nouns refer to ideas, concepts, and conditions that cannot be touched or seen (*happiness*, *imagination*, *thought*).

Finally, nouns can be **collective**, referring to groups of people or things (*government*, *family*, *staff*). In American English, most collective nouns are singular, and thus have a singular verb. In British English, however, both singular and plural forms are used. Examples: *My family has a long history of depression.* *My family have a long history of depression.* (Both are correct.)

I. ACTIVITY—IDENTIFY SINGULAR AND PLURAL NOUNS

The sentences below are based on sentences from “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave.”

- a. Find in the text the plural form of the nouns in the box. Compare with a classmate.

trick, year, duty, soul

- b. Find in the text the singular form of the nouns in the box. Compare with a classmate.

I lived in Master Hugh's family about seven years. During this time, I succeeded in learning to read and write. In doing this, I had to resort to various tricks. I had no regular teacher. My mistress kindly started to instruct me. But she stopped at the advice of her husband. My mistress was a kind and tender-hearted woman. She treated me as one human being should treat another. But she had to do the duties of a slaveholder too. Slavery proved as harmful to her as it did to me. When I went there, she was a kindhearted woman. There was no sorrow or suffering for which she had not a tear. She had bread for the hungry, clothes for the naked, and compassion for all souls that she met. But slavery changed her ability to act so generously. Under the influence of slavery, her tender heart became stone. Her warm temperament changed into a terrible brutality.

families, times,
teachers, mistresses,
women, husbands,
beings, slaveholders,
sorrows, sufferings,
tears, abilities,
influences, hearts
stones,
temperaments
brutalities

Answer
I lived in Master Hugh's family about seven years. During this time, I succeeded in learning to read and write. In doing this, I had to resort to various tricks. I had no regular teacher. My mistress kindly started to instruct me. But she stopped at the advice of her husband. My mistress was a kind and tender-hearted woman. She treated me as one human being should treat another. But she had to do the duties of a slaveholder too. Slavery proved as harmful to her as it did to me. When I went there, she was a kindhearted woman. There was no sorrow or suffering for which she had not a tear. She had bread for the hungry, clothes for the naked, and compassion for all souls that she met. But slavery changed her ability to act so generously. Under the influence of slavery, her tender heart became stone. Her warm temperament changed into a terrible brutality.

2. ACTIVITY—USE NOUNS TO COMPLETE SENTENCES

a. Complete the sentences below with the nouns in the box. Compare with a classmate.

support, society, cities, progress, soldiers, events, country, rights, changes,
radio, film, wages, alcohol, decade, war, laborers, chance, conditions, affairs,
strikes

The 1920s in the United States are largely marked by two major (1) _____: the end of World War I and the Wall Street Crash, which sent the (2) _____ into the Great Depression (1929-1939). These two events speeded (3) _____ that were happening much earlier in the American (4) _____. The introduction of new mass communications, such as (5) _____ and (6) _____, together with female suffrage and the prohibition of (7) _____, made the (8) _____ different from others. However, there was a certain tension in the American society, which was known for celebrating both (9) _____ and tradition. After the (10) _____, the nation was spiritually tired, hoping for a (11) _____ to follow private projects and forget about public (12) _____. But postwar labor was experiencing a lack of (13) _____ from the government, which favored business interests over workers' (14) _____. This led to a long series of (15) _____ in which labor demanded higher (16) _____ and better working (17) _____. This caused an important population change – relocated farmers, returned (18) _____, and unskilled (19) _____ moved into (20) _____ that were becoming overcrowded.

Answer
The 1920s in the United States are largely marked by two major **events**: the end of World War I and the Wall Street Crash, which sent the **country** into the Great Depression (1929-1939). These two events speeded **changes** that were happening much earlier in the American **society**. The introduction of new mass communications, such as **radio** and **film**, together with female suffrage and the prohibition of **alcohol**, made the **decade** different from others. However, there was a certain tension in the American society, which was known for celebrating both **progress** and tradition. After the **war**, the nation was spiritually tired, hoping for a **chance** to follow private projects and forget about public **affairs**. But postwar labor was experiencing a lack of **support** from the government, which favored business interests over workers' **rights**. This led to a long series of **strikes** in which labor demanded higher **wages** and better working **conditions**. This caused an important population change – relocated farmers, returned **soldiers**, and unskilled **laborers** moved into **cities** that were becoming overcrowded.

b. Complete the sentences below with the nouns in the box. Compare with a classmate.

Nevertheless, for most Americans, the 1920s was a decade of (1) _____. They experienced a new (2) _____ of living, and new technological advances. The (3) _____ in individual income contributed to increased purchasing power for many Americans. American (4) _____ F. Scott Fitzgerald's (5) _____ "The Great Gatsby," reveals how Americans went on one of the largest splurges in (6) _____. The old American work (7) _____ changed from saving to buying as much as possible. There was a general (8) _____ among Americans that this prosperity would continue. This motivated both (9) _____ and (10) _____ to take financial risks. Americans could, for instance, buy (11) _____, television sets, (12) _____, or washing machines on (13) _____. This contrasted with the times before the 1920s, when Americans in general owned very few (14) _____, saved most of their (15) _____, which they spent only on essential (16) _____, such as (17) _____, basic clothing, and (18) _____. This (19) _____ marked the birth of a consumer (20) _____, in which the advertising (21) _____ was encouraging mass (22) _____ and mass consumption by telling the (23) _____ that they really needed all those goods. The advertising industry was telling Americans that they were offering them their (24) _____.

- faith, money,
- dreams, businesses,
- industry, writer,
- standard, individuals,
- pianos, ethic, rent,
- possessions,
- prosperity, public,
- production, boom,
- credit, history,
- novel, cars, period,
- things, food, nation

Answer

Nevertheless, for most Americans, the 1920s was a decade of **prosperity**. They experienced a new **standard** of living, and new technological advances. The **boom** in individual income contributed to increased purchasing power for many Americans. American **writer** F. Scott Fitzgerald's **novel** "The Great Gatsby" reveals how Americans went on one of the largest splurges in **history**. The old American work **ethic** changed from saving to buying as much as possible. There was a general **faith** among Americans that this prosperity will continue. This motivated both **individuals** and **businesses** to take financial risks. Americans could, for instance, buy **cars**, television sets, **pianos**, or washing machines on **credit**. This contrasted with the times before the 1920s, when Americans in general owned very few **possessions**, saved most of their **money**, which they spent only on essential **things**, such as **food**, basic clothing, and **rent**. This **period** marked the birth of a consumer **nation**, in which the advertising **industry** was encouraging mass **production** and mass consumption by telling the **public** that they really needed all those goods. The advertising industry was telling Americans that they were offering them their **dreams**.

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