Sentence Combining

The original line from *The Importance of Being Earnest:*

*Lady Bracknell:* Untruthful! My nephew Algernon? Impossible! He is an Oxonian.

The sentences to combine:

Lady Bracknell says that Algernon cannot be untruthful.

He is her nephew.

She says it is because he is an Oxonian.

Her statement is nonsense.

Absolute Phrases

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| a group of words that modifies an independent clause as a whole; it has no finite verb | *Her statement nonsensical*, Lady Bracknell declares that her nephew Algernon cannot be untruthful because he is an Oxonian. |

Adjective Clause

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| any clause which modifies a noun or pronoun | Lady Bracknell says nonsensically that her nephew Algernon, *who is an Oxonian*, cannot be untruthful. |

Adverb Clause

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| any clause which modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb | Lady Bracknell talks nonsense *when she says that her nephew Algernon cannot be untruthful because he is an Oxonian.* |

Appositives

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| a noun, noun phrase, or series of nouns used to rename or identify another noun, noun phrase, or pronoun | His aunt, *Lady Bracknell*, says nonsensically that Algernon, *an Oxonian,* is incapable of being untruthful. |

Participial Phrases

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| one built on a past or present participle; if it begins the sentence, it always modifies the subject of the main clause, whether the writer intends it to or not | Lady Bracknell, *lapsing again into nonsense,* says that her nephew Algernon is incapable of being untruthful because he is an Oxonian. |

Prepositional phrases

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| one beginning with a preposition, ending with the preposition’s object, and working as an adjective or as an adverb | *In another example of nonsense,* Lady Bracknell says that her nephew Algernon cannot be untruthful because he is an Oxonian. |

Two Resources

Kilgallon, Don. *Sentence Composing for High School*. Boynton/Cook Heinemann, 1998. Print.

Strong, Williiam. *Sentence Combining: A Composing Book*. McGraw-Hill, 1994. Print.