

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

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

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

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

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

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

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