

# 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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*.

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## Appositives

a noun, noun phrase, or series of nouns used to rename or identify another noun, noun phrase, or pronoun

*An Oxonian*, Algernon is incapable of being untruthful, his aunt Lady Bracknell says nonsensically.

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## Participial Phrases

one built on a past or present participle; 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.

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## Prepositional phrases

one beginning with a preposition, ending with the preposition's object, and working as an adjective or as an adverb

Lady Bracknell says, *in another example of nonsense*, 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.