

EXERCISES.

1. IMITATION OF PERIODS.

EXERCISE I.

Model.

He lives with antiquity and posterity; with antiquity, in the sweet communion of studious retirement; and with posterity, in the generous aspirings after future renown. — *Roscoe*.

Briefly: "He is independent of the world around him."

This sentence is developed by giving the circumstances of his life that prove this independence.

REMARKS. — The model is a balanced sentence. Be careful to have appropriate prepositions in the development.

Imitation.

Briefly: Washington is worthy of admiration and imitation.

Developed by giving the causes or reasons:—

Washington is worthy of admiration and imitation; of admiration, for his great qualities as a soldier and a statesman; of imitation, for his patriotism in war and his integrity in peace.

Subjects.

Complete, according to the same model, the following sentences:—

Rowing contributes to health and amusement . . .

The inventions of our age are objects of wonder and delight . . .

The depths of the forest were gloomy and grand . . .

Cæsar's conquests were noted for their rapidity and success . . .

Napoleon was a general remarkable for ability and unscrupulousness . . .

Irving's style pleases us by its simplicity and its elegance . . .

EXERCISE II.

Model.

A little while and the smile will vanish from that cheek — the song will die away from those lips — the lustre of those eyes will be quenched with sorrow; and the happy heart, which now beats lightly in that bosom, will be weighed down by the cares and miseries of the world. — *The Wife*.

Briefly: Soon she will be unhappy.

Developed by enumerating parts of the body where joy is manifested.

REMARKS. — The model is a loose sentence. Notice the growth in the length of clauses, keeping pace with the climax in thought.

Imitation.

Briefly: Soon he will be angry.

Developed as above: —

A little while and the flush of anger will redden his cheeks; wrathful words will fall from his lips; his mild eyes will flame with resentment; and the blood which now courses so calmly through his veins, will rush through them with all the wild pulsations of rage.

Subjects.

The angry men soon became calm.

The horse will soon grow furious.

The hatred he felt soon gave place to love.

Washington felt great pity for his suffering soldiers.

The tree shaken by the tempest soon ceased to be moved.

The most stolid schoolboy will be glad at the granting of a holiday.

EXERCISE III.

Model.

Amidst the general call to happiness, the bustle of the spirits, and stir of the affections, which prevail at this period, what bosom can remain insensible? — *Christmas.*

Briefly: At Christmas, who can remain unmoved?

Sense suspended by the transposition of a prepositional phrase.

Developed by circumstances.

Imitation.

Briefly: On Memorial Day, who feels not sorrow for the dead?

Developed by circumstances: —

Amidst the solemn dirges, the sad words of remembrance, and stifled emotions which prevail on Memorial Day, what heart does not feel a throb of sorrow for the soldier who has died for his country?

Subjects.

Independence Day.

Thanksgiving.

A College Victory.

A Battle Won or Lost.

The Death of a Mother or of an Only Child.

A Riot.

EXERCISE IV.

Model.

The ships of war that prowled like guardian giants along the coast, the headlands of Ireland, stretching out into the channel, the Welsh mountains towering into the clouds, — all were objects of intense interest. — *The Voyage.*

Briefly: Everything seen from the ship was an object of interest. (*Point of view: from a ship nearing shore.*)

Sense suspended by accumulation of subjects.

Developed by enumeration of the objects of interest.

REMARKS. — Vary the modifiers of the different subjects, using now a phrase, again a clause. Exercise care in the choice of details, choosing those that excite the feeling indicated. Pay attention to the order in which you put the details.

Imitation.

Briefly: This is an age of material progress.

Developed as above: —

The great railroads that encircle the earth, the monster steamships rushing over the ocean with ever-increasing speed, the countless inventions facilitating the production of everything that can contribute to man's need or comfort, — all proclaim this an age of material progress.

Subjects.

Everything was an object of delight. (*Point of view: sailing on some river.*)

The appearance of the sky excited awe. (*Point of view: moonlight night, sunset, or during a storm.*)

The Falls of Niagara amaze us.

The history of America's struggle for independence fills us with pride.

Irving's style is a source of unending pleasure.

A great masterpiece, picture, statue, or cathedral, is a cause of admiration.

EXERCISE V.

Model.

To see him striding along the profile of a hill on a windy day with his clothes bagging and fluttering about him, one might have mistaken him for the genius of famine descending upon the earth, or some scarecrow eloped from a cornfield.— *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.*

Briefly: To see him, one might have mistaken him for famine or a scarecrow.

Sense suspended by transposing the infinitive phrase.

Developed by circumstances and by comparison.

Imitation.

Briefly: To see a graceful skater, you might have fancied that he moved about like the eagle.

Developed by circumstances and by comparison:—

To see a graceful skater gliding over the ice, poising lightly now on one foot and now on the other, and moving forward in a succession of broad sweeping curves, you might have fancied that he was clad with invisible wings which enabled him to circle about on the glassy surface of the ice as the eagle wheels aloft in its flight through the air.

Subjects.

To see the ships of Columbus, the ignorant Indians might well have mistaken them for huge birds. (*Enumerate some circumstances connected with the appearance of the ships, and develop the comparison.*)

The Hero of the Game. (*Circumstances connected with his reception, and comparison with a Roman Triumph.*)

An Old Man. (*Circumstances, and comparison with "the last leaf on the tree."*)

A Policeman. (*Circumstances, and comparison with the Colossus of Rhodes.*)

“Leafless, stemless, floating flower,
From a rainbow’s scattered bower.”

— *The Butterfly (Tabb).*

EXERCISE VI.

Model.

But in the depth of winter, when nature lies despoiled of every charm and wrapped in her shroud of sheeted snow, we turn for our gratifications to moral sources. — *Christmas.*

Briefly: In winter we look to moral sources for pleasure.

Sense suspended by a prepositional phrase and a dependent clause.

Developed by circumstances.

REMARKS. — A transitional period. Emphasis requires that the prepositional phrase be first: “in the depth of winter” is opposed to “at other times.” Exercise care in the choice of circumstances, selecting those that produce the feeling described.

Imitation.

Briefly: In June we admire nature.

Developed by circumstances: —

But on the balmy mornings of June when the fading stars recede before the bright glow of the summer sun, we stand in admiration of the beauties of earth.

Subjects.

Football is the game for autumn.

The seashore is a pleasant place in summer.

A book is a pleasing companion on a rainy day.

Skating in Winter. (*Give other circumstances than those given above.*)

We feel awe when alone in a church by night.

A View of St. Peter's.

EXERCISE VII.**Model.**

Born in a place apparently ungenial to the growth of literary talent; in the very market-place of trade; **without** fortune, family connections, or patronage; self-prompted, self-sustained, and almost self-taught; he has conquered every obstacle, achieved his way to eminence, and, **having** become one of the ornaments of the nation, **has** turned the whole force of his talents and influence to advance and embellish his native town. — *Roscoe.*

Briefly: Under every disadvantage of birth, he has made his way to eminence and become a benefactor of his native town.

Sense suspended by a participial phrase.

Developed by circumstances connected with his birth.

Imitation.

Briefly: A youth reared in the slums will scarcely be a good man or good citizen.

Developed by circumstances: —

Reared in a spot blighting to the growth of virtue; in the very atmosphere of crime; **without** instruction, good companionship, or suitable care; poor, ragged, and dirty; a youth **will find**

it difficult to become a good man, and failing in that, will not be able to exercise the duties of a good citizen.

Subjects.

Educated without a knowledge of history, a man will be a poor statesman.

Remaining in his native town always, a man will be narrow-minded.

Fought as it was, the battle of Bunker Hill was a victory for the Americans.

Sailing on the sea, a boy is filled with gladness.

“Standing on the Persian’s grave,
I could not deem myself a slave.”

— *Byron on Marathon (The Isles of Greece)*.

Gazing at the tombstones, I realized the shortness of life. (*Cf. Gray’s Elegy*.)

EXERCISE VIII.

Model.

The dreariness and desolation of the landscape, the short gloomy days and darksome nights, while they circumscribe our wanderings, shut in our feelings also from rambling abroad, and make us more keenly disposed for the pleasure of the social circle. — *Christmas*.

Briefly: Winter makes us social.

Sense suspended by accumulation of subjects and by a dependent clause.

Developed by giving the circumstances and effects of winter.

Imitation.

Briefly: Summer draws us out of doors.

Developed by circumstances and effects: —

The brightness and cheerfulness of the landscape, the warm sun and smiling nature, while they render out-door life pleasant, tempt us to wander forth and look about, and make us appreciate more the loveliness of the earth.

Subjects.

Baseball makes us strong.

“Reading maketh a full man.”

“Lives of great men all remind us

We can make our lives sublime.”

The study of astronomy should elevate the mind.
(*Effects of any other study.*)

The song of the skylark fills us with joy. (*Cf. Shelley's Skylark.*)

“Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast.”

A holiday brings joy to the heart of the schoolboy.

Exercise is a help to study.

EXERCISE IX.

Model.

Though he had been as roughly used in different countries as a poor sheep that is fleeced by every hedge and thicket, yet he spoke of every nation with candor and kindness, appearing to look only on the good side of things. — *The Angler.*

Briefly: Though roughly used everywhere, he spoke well of all.

Sense suspended by a dependent clause.

Developed by comparison.

Imitation.

Briefly: Though Webster failed at school in speaking, he became a great orator.

Developed by comparison : —

Though Daniel Webster made as complete a failure in his first attempt at public speaking as the Athenian Demosthenes did in his maiden speech at the law court of Athens, yet by perseverance and industry he achieved success, becoming the greatest orator of America, as Demosthenes was of Athens.

Subjects.

Though Greek is difficult, it well repays our study.

(*Comparison with a miner or discoverer.*)

Though study is arduous, it has its great rewards.

(*Comparison with mountain climbing.*)

Robert Bruce's failures compared with the spider's.

All is not gold that glitters.

“ Like a star of heaven,

In the broad daylight

Thou art unseen, but yet I hear thy shrill delight.”

— *Shelley's Ode to a Skylark.*

EXERCISE X.

Model.

He who has sought renown about the world, and has reaped a full harvest of worldly favor, will find after all that there is no love, no admiration, no applause, so sweet to the soul as that which springs up in his native place. — *Stratford-on-Avon.*

Briefly : The most famous will find the glory of their native place the sweetest.

Sense suspended by a dependent clause and by cor-relatives.

Developed by paraphrase.

REMARKS. — Notice the repetition of “no” and the paraphrase of glory ; love, admiration, applause. Notice, too, the climax.

Imitation.

Briefly: The sinner will always be forgiven by his mother.

Developed by paraphrase:—

He who has led a life of wickedness, and has sounded the dark depths of crime, will find after all that there is no fault, no offence, no sin so heinous as to harden towards him the heart of her who gave him birth.

Subjects.

The unfortunate will find a true friend the best solace.

There is no place like home.

The traitor will meet with universal contempt.

Washington is the most glorious name in our history.

Ulysses after all his travels found Ithaca the best place.

The traveller can find no grander sight than the sea.

EXERCISE XI.**Model.**

Who, even when the tomb is closing upon the remains of her he most loved, when he feels his heart, as it were crushed, in the closing of its portal, would accept of consolation that must be bought by forgetfulness?—*Rural Funerals.*

Briefly: When a loved one is buried, who will seek consolation in forgetfulness? or, "The sorrow for the dead is the only sorrow from which we refuse to be divorced."

Sense suspended by dependent clauses.

Developed by circumstances and effects.

REMARKS.—The repetition of “closing” does not seem good. The interrogative form is adopted because the feeling of the passage is growing more intense.

Imitation.

Briefly: Who at graduation will feel no sorrow?
Developed by circumstances and effects:—

Who, when he is graduated from the place where he spent many happy days, when he feels as though he is separated forever from his youthful companions, would condescend to blot out all this sadness by forgetting, as he goes out into the great world, his dear old college home?

Subjects.

Who can remain indifferent when his country is in danger?

Who can cross the streets of a city without some fear?

Who, upon beholding a storm at sea, is unmoved?

Who, even when he reads of Napoleon's achievements, is not astonished?

“O, who can hold a fire in his hand.

By thinking on the frosty Caucasus?”

— *Richard II.*

“Or cloy the hungry edge of appetite.

By bare imagination of a feast?”

— *Richard II.*

“Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,

Who never to himself has said,

This is my own, my native land!”

— *Scott.*

EXERCISE XII.

Model.

She scatters the seeds of genius to the winds, and though some may perish among the stony places of the world, and some be choked by the thorns and brambles of early adversity, yet others will now and then strike root even in the clefts of the rock, struggle bravely up into sunshine, and spread over their sterile birthplace all the beauties of vegetation. — *Roscoe*.

Briefly: "Nature seems to glory in the vigor and luxuriance of her chance productions," or, Varied is the fate of genius.

Sense suspended by dependent clauses and correlatives.

Developed by paraphrase and comparison.

Imitation.

Briefly: Fortune seems to glory in the unexpected successes of her votaries.

Developed by paraphrase and comparison: —

Fortune launches her votaries on the stormy sea of life, and though some may perish on hidden reefs and some go down in the tempest that breaks over them, yet others will weather the fiercest storms, be piloted through all dangers, and glide safely into the haven of prosperity.

Subjects.

Adversity tests friendship. (*Paraphrase, using comparison drawn from smelting.*)

Trials show men's worth. (*Paraphrase, comparing the effects of a storm on a forest or on buildings.*)

Various are the fates of soldiers. (*Circumstances of their deaths.*)

Describe college graduates in the battle of life.

EXERCISE XIII.

Model.

As I have been awakened by the waits in that still and solemn hour, "when deep sleep falleth upon man," I have listened with a hushed delight, and connecting them with the sacred and joyous occasion, have almost fancied them into another celestial choir announcing peace and good will to mankind. — *Christmas.*

Briefly: As I have been awakened by the waits, I have listened and fancied them into another celestial choir.

Sense suspended by a dependent clause and a participial phrase.

Developed by circumstances and comparison.

Imitation.

Briefly: As I have heard the birds in the morning, I have fancied them choristers.

Developed by circumstances and comparison: —

As I have arisen in the bright and joyous morning, when the warm rays of the sun dart through the foliage, I have heard the happy melody of the birds, and connecting them with the circumstances of the time, I have fancied them into some band of choristers sounding a salute to the coming day.

Subjects.

The song of the nightingale. (*Circumstances, and comparison with one in sorrow.*)

Niagara Falls. (*Circumstances, and comparison with cannonading.*)

Moonlight on the sea. (*Circumstances, and comparison with angels' pathway.*)

The slow beating of a dying man's heart. (*Circumstances, and comparison with muffled drums beating a funeral march.*)

EXERCISE XIV.

Model.

As the enraptured Ichabod fancied all this, and as he rolled his great green eyes over the fat meadow-lands, the rich fields of wheat, of rye, of buckwheat, and Indian corn, and the orchards burdened with ruddy fruit, which surrounded the warm tenement of Van Tassel, his heart yearned after the damsel who was to inherit these domains, and his imagination expanded with the idea how they might readily be turned into cash and the money invested in immense tracts of wild land and shingle palaces in the wilderness. — *Legend of Sleepy Hollow.*

Briefly: As Ichabod fancied all this, and as he gazed at Van Tassel's farm, he wished to have Van Tassel's daughter, and he imagined what could be done with her property.

Sense suspended by dependent clauses.

Developed by enumeration and effects.

Imitation.

Briefly: As Scipio gazed at the ruins of Carthage, he wept.

Developed by enumeration and circumstances: —

As Scipio Æmilianus gazed upon the ruined city of Carthage, with its marble palaces and gilded domes and the remains of its former pomp and magnificence, and as he thought of the glory of its conquests and of the renown and victories of the valiant Hannibal, his heart was moved with sorrow at the destiny of that ill-fated city, and, Roman that he was, he wept over the destruction of that proud "Mistress of the Seas" and at the downfall of so powerful and valorous a nation.

Subjects.

Washington viewing his army at Valley Forge. (*Enumeration of hardships and hopes.*)

As Lee looked on his broken army at Appomattox Court House, he pitied his unhappy men and imagined their future. (*Enumeration of misfortunes and gloomy views of the future.*)

Columbus gazing at the New World. (*Enumeration of beauties and great prospects.*)

Describe the feelings of the retreating Greeks at their first sight of the sea. (*Cf. Xenophon's Anabasis.*)

Describe some view, enumerating its details and noting the effect upon you.

“The mountains look on Marathon,
And Marathon looks on the sea;
And musing there an hour alone,
I dreamed that Greece might still be free.”

— *Byron's Isles of Greece.*

(*Enumerate the memories of Marathon that the poet mused upon and the results of the freedom he dreamt of.*)

EXERCISE XV.**Model.**

When anything that was read or related displeased him, he was observed to smoke his pipe vehemently, and to send forth short, frequent, and angry puffs; but when pleased, he would inhale the smoke slowly and tranquilly, and emit it in light and placid clouds; and sometimes, taking the pipe from his mouth and letting the fragrant vapor curl about his nose, would gravely nod his head in token of perfect approbation. — *Rip Van Winkle.*

Briefly: When displeased, he smoked one way; when pleased, another.

Sense suspended by dependent clauses.

Developed by effects.

REMARKS. — In the model sentence the part more fully developed is placed second. This fact should be kept in mind in the imitations. The vocabulary used in the imitation sentence is taken from the sketch, *Rip Van Winkle*. This recasting of the author's language will be found useful, as it helps to fix good phrases in the memory.

Imitation.

Briefly: When Rip Van Winkle was left to himself, he acted in one way; when scolded, in another.

Developed by effects: —

When Rip Van Winkle was left to himself, he took the world easy and whistled his time away in perfect contentment; but when Dame Van Winkle lectured him, he shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, and cast up his eyes, saying nothing; and finally provoking thus a new volley from his wife, he was compelled to draw off his forces and take to the outside of the house.

Subjects.

Effects of scolding and petting on a favorite dog or other animal. (Cf. *Dame Van Winkle's scolding of Wolf*.)

Storm and calm on a river or bay.

Describe the looks of a boy when told to study and when permitted to play.

Winter and summer around home.

How a man grieves and how a boy grieves.

A nation on hearing of a defeat and of a victory.

EXERCISE XVI.

Model.

If "sorrow for the dead" has its woes, it has likewise its delights; and when the overwhelming burst of grief is calmed into the gentle tear of recollection, when the sudden anguish and convulsive agony over the present ruins of all that we most loved, is softened away into pensive meditation on all that it was in the days of its loveliness—who would root out such a sorrow from the heart?—*Rural Funerals.*

Briefly: When the grief for our dead has abated, who would be rid of it?

Sense suspended by dependent clauses.

Developed by paraphrase.

(*Following sentence.*) Though it may sometimes throw a passing cloud over the bright hour of gayety, or spread a deeper sadness over the hour of gloom, yet who would exchange it even for the song of pleasure or the burst of revelry?—*Rural Funerals.*

Briefly: Though sorrow for the dead is depressing, yet who would exchange it for joy?

Sense suspended by dependent clauses.

Developed by effects of sorrow.

Imitation.

Failure: its disappointments and its benefits.

Developed as in the model:—

If failure has its disappointments, it has likewise its benefits; and when the keen sense of loss has given way to calmer second thoughts, when bitter humiliation and despairing sorrow over the ruin of all our fondest hopes are subdued into sober reflection on the reason why we failed, who would try to forget the

hard lessons of failure? Though it may cool the ardor of impetuous youth, or lessen for a time one's enthusiasm over some favorite enterprise, yet what sensible man would prefer to it the inexperience of continued good fortune or the rash imprudence born of constant success?

Subjects suitable for either or both of the preceding periods.

College memories: their sorrows and their joys.

Football: its disadvantages and advantages.

Old age: its cares and its consolations.

Study: its difficulty and its reward.

War (*in general or in particular*): its evil and its beneficial results.

Winter has pleasures we would not willingly forego

EXERCISE XVII.

Model.

How would it have cheered the spirit of the youthful bard when, wandering forth in disgrace upon a doubtful world, he cast back a heavy look upon his paternal home, could he have foreseen that before many years he should return to it covered with renown; that his name should become the glory and boast of his native place; that his ashes should be religiously guarded as its most precious treasure; and that its lessening spire, on which his eyes were fixed in tearful contemplation, should one day be the beacon, towering amidst the gentle landscape, to guide the literary pilgrim of every nation to his tomb!—*Stratford-on-Avon.*

Briefly: Shakespeare would have been happy on leaving his native town, if he had foreseen the fame he would bring to it.

Developed by effects.

REMARKS. — The model sentence forms a paragraph, and it is the last sentence in the sketch. Strive to have harmony in the imitations, keeping the same growth in the length of clauses.

Imitation.

Briefly: Columbus would have died happy, could he have foreseen the honor that was to come to him.

Developed as in the model: —

How would it have consoled the heart of Columbus when, passing out of this world, he reflected with sadness upon the ingratitude of men, could he have foreseen that in years to come all that ingratitude would be deeply regretted; that his name would be esteemed and honored the whole world over; that everything connected with him would be the object of an almost religious veneration; and that the new continent to which his daring spirit led the way, would be the home of a large and prosperous nation cherishing his memory with feelings of grateful love!

Subjects.

Robert Fulton would have been encouraged in his labors, could he have known the effects of his application of steam to vessels. (*In the same way: Morse and the telegraph; Edison and the electric light, etc.*)

How gladly would a soldier go forth to battle, could he know the honor his country would give him! (*Choose some particular soldier or general.*)

How willingly the early pioneer in America would have toiled, could he have foreseen the results of his labors! (*E.g. William Penn.*)

How reluctant Benedict Arnold would have been to betray his country, could he have known the consequences! (*In the same way, any great criminal or victim of vice.*)