

Use Phrases and Clauses as Modifiers

A modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that modifies, or describes, another word or phrase. A modifier helps create a more engaging sentence that holds the reader's attention.

Consider the following sentence.

Lily's favorite sneakers were now covered in a thick layer of red dirt.



Now, consider the sentence with a clause that modifies the subject.

Lily's favorite sneakers, which she received as a birthday gift, were now covered in a thick layer of red dirt.

The clause provides additional information about the subject of the sentence, making the sentence more interesting and detailed.

Using modifiers can also be a great way to increase sentence variety in your writing. When modifying a noun or noun phrase, use adjective clauses, infinitive phrases, participial phrases, prepositional phrases, or appositives.

Directions: Rewrite each sentence to include a phrase or clause that correctly modifies the highlighted noun or noun phrase. Sample answers

1. The study group met in the library after school.

The study group from Mrs. Falconi's American Studies class met in the library after school.

2. Meara and Brett stayed up late and went to the roof to watch the meteor shower.

Meara and Brett stayed up late and went to the roof of their apartment building to watch the meteor shower.

3. I'd like to join the photography club.

I'd like to join the photography club that meets after school.

4. Michele joined the Laford Cove Sailing Club.

Michele, who has always loved being on the water, joined the Laford Cove Sailing Club.

5. Jamar bought new sunglasses for his vacation next week.

Jamar bought new sunglasses with bamboo frames for his vacation next week.

6. My grandmother gifted me mixing bowls.

My grandmother gifted me mixing bowls, which I'll use while making my favorite red velvet cake pops.

7. The flyer advertised several dog-walking job opportunities in our neighborhood.

The flyer on the library's bulletin board advertised several dog-walking job opportunities in our neighborhood.

8. Bryson's teammates nominated him to serve as the tennis team captain.

Recognizing his dedication, enthusiasm, and skill, Bryson's teammates nominated him to serve as the tennis team captain.