## **Sentence Analysis Exercise 1**

Here are some fairly simple sentences to help you practice sentence analysis.

Sentence Analysis Notation Key
prepositional phrases and infinitive phrases
verbs
subjects
{independent clauses} and [dependent clauses]

- 1. When Katana wants to be petted, she flops onto the floor and stretches.
- 2. Aquaman was offended by Superman's petty insistence on ordering triple anchovies.
- 3. On snowy days Calvin likes to build grotesque snowmen, but Susie disapproves of his creations.
- 4. Legolas and Gimli were feared throughout Mordor for their prowess at ping pong.
- 5. Luke carried Yoda around like a backpack because Yoda was too lazy to walk.
- 6. After Katana bolted down the hallway, a stray tuft of fur drifted slowly in her wake like a tumbleweed.
- 7. This Sichuan hot pot is so spicy that you have to sign a medical waiver to eat it.
- 8. Manu and Tim made fun of Tony when he watched My Little Pony on the team bus.
- 9. Harvey Birdman made a powerful closing argument that convinced the jury of his client's guilt.
- 10. Tenacious D, who write songs about their own greatness, are the most feared and respected rock band in the galaxy.

## Answers to Sentence Analysis Exercise 1

- 1. [When Katana wants) to be petted], {she flops onto the floor and stretches.}
- 2. {Aquaman was offended by Superman's petty insistence on ordering triple anchovies.}
- 3. {On snowy days Calvin likes)to build grotesque snowmen}, but {Susie disapproves of his creations.}
- 4. {Legolas and Gimli were feared throughout Mordor for their prowess at ping pong.}
- 5. {Luke carried) Yoda around like a backpack} [because Yoda was too lazy to walk].
- 6. [After Katana bolted down the hallway], {a stray tuft of fur drifted slowly in her wake like a tumbleweed.}
- 7. {This Sichuan hot potisso spicy} [that you have to sign a medical waiver to eat it].
- 8. {Manu and Tim made fun of Tony} [when he watched My Little Pony on the team bus].
- 9. {Harvey Birdman made a powerful closing argument} [that convinced the jury of his client's guilt].
- 10. Tenacious D, who write songs about their own greatness, are the most feared and respected rock band in the galaxy.}

## Some explanatory notes:

- 1. The second clause in this sentence has a **compound predicate**: two verbs (*flops* and *stretches*) that share the same subject (*she*).
- 2. The object of the preposition *on*, *ordering*, is a **gerund** (an "-ing verb" or **present participle** acting as a noun). This gerund also takes *anchovies* as its object, and together all of these words can be seen as forming one continuous phrase.
- 3. This is a **compound sentence**: two independent clauses joined by a **coordinating conjunction** (but).
- 5. Around is an adverb modifying carried; lazy is a predicate adjective.
- 8. The expression "make fun" can be interpreted as a **phrasal verb** (a verb that combines with another word or words to express a specific idiomatic meaning).
- 9. The pronoun *that* has two functions here: to indicate the beginning of a **relative clause** and to serve as the subject of the verb *convinced*. This relative clause modifies the noun *argument*. (And yes, a competent lawyer tries to convince the jury that his or her client is innocent.)
- 10. The relative clause starting with *who* modifies the noun *Tenacious D*, which is treated as a plural noun in this sentence. *Feared* and *respected* are **past participles** acting as adjectives; they are not verbs in this sentence.