

## Sentence Analysis Exercise 2

*Here are some somewhat more complex sentences to help you practice sentence analysis:*

1. As I turned to him and told him the news, he shook my hand excitedly and congratulated me.
2. With a loud sigh and a hearty belch, the stuffed and exhausted man lay down on his creaky bed.
3. Skeeter tried to antagonize Jimbob by mocking his dental hygiene, but Jimbob brushed off his insult with a toothless grin.
4. Because the cat was meowing incessantly, I stopped to have a conversation with it.
5. Although I didn't like the awful paintings that he showed me, I politely and cruelly encouraged him to keep practicing.
6. As a junior in high school, I read many novels and short stories by American writers whose work I only later learned to truly appreciate.
7. In a wide-eyed trance, the captivated audience gave the fascinating speaker their full attention.
8. David Robinson and Tim Duncan, who were known as the "Twin Towers," were the most feared NBA frontcourt in the late 90's and early 2000's.
9. Unable to process what had happened, she stared blankly into space as she told me that all of her belongings had been destroyed in the fire.
10. The house that burned down had been built in 1865, and it had been considered both an eyesore and a landmark.

## Answers to Sentence Analysis Exercise 2

1. {As [I turned to him and told him the news,] [he shook my hand excitedly and congratulated me.}]
2. {With a loud sigh and a hearty belch, the stuffed and exhausted man lay down on his creaky bed.}
3. {Skeeter tried to antagonize Jimbob by mocking his dental hygiene,} but {Jimbob brushed off his insult with a toothless grin.}
4. [Because the cat was meowing incessantly,] [I stopped to have a conversation with it.]
5. [Although I didn't like the awful paintings] [that he showed me], [I politely and cruelly encouraged him to keep practicing.]
6. {As a junior in high school, I read many novels and short stories by American writers} [whose work I only later learned to truly appreciate.]
7. {In a wide-eyed trance, the captivated audience gave the fascinating speaker their full attention.}
8. {David Robinson and Tim Duncan [who were known as the "Twin Towers."] were the most feared NBA frontcourt in the late 90's and early 2000's.}
9. {Unable to process [what had happened, she stared blankly into space} [as she told me [that all of her belongings had been destroyed in the fire.]]
10. {The house [that burned down] had been built in 1865,} and {it had been considered both an eyesore and a landmark.}

### Some explanatory notes:

1. Both clauses in this sentence have compound predicates (two verbs with the same subject).
2. "Sigh" and "belch" form a compound prepositional object; "stuffed" and "exhausted" are verb forms (participles) acting as adjectives, not as verbs; "to lie down" is a phrasal verb.
3. "Mocking" is a gerund (a present participle acting as a noun); "to brush off" is a phrasal verb in infinitive form; "but" can be considered part of the second clause but essentially is a conjunction joining the two independent clauses into a compound sentence.
4. It is, in fact, acceptable to start a sentence with "because" as long as it is a complete sentence, with an independent clause following the dependent "because" clause.
5. The relative clause "that he showed me" modifies the noun "paintings"; as a gerund acting as the object of the infinitive "to keep," "practicing" is part of that infinitive phrase.
6. "As" is a preposition in this sentence, not a subordinating conjunction. The relative clause at the end of the sentence modifies the noun "writers."
7. "Captivated" and "fascinating" are participles acting as adjectives, not verbs.

8. The relative clause “who were known as the ‘Twin Towers’” modifies the compound subject “David Robinson and Tim Duncan”; “feared” is a participle acting as an adjective and modifying “NBA frontcourt.”
9. The relative clause “what had happened” is the object of the infinitive “to process,” but in rare situations like this (in which a clause occurs within a prepositional phrase) I prefer not to underline the clause.

Because the last clause of this sentence is the direct object of the verb “told,” it is included within the brackets for the “when...” clause. Note also that “like” is a preposition when used in this sense and that “all,” not “belongings,” is the subject of the last clause.

10. Although the sentence is saying that the *house* burned down, from a grammatical point of view, the pronoun “that” (which refers to “house”) is the subject of the verb “burned down”; “house” is the subject of the verb “had been built.”