

USING SENTENCE COMBINING ACTIVITIES

Sentence combining activities may be used as measures of comprehension following an audio-tape, worksheet lesson. However, the exercises may serve best for rehearsal or practice exercises after the usual comprehension exercises have been completed.

Exercise: Combine the following short sentences into one longer sentence and then combine all of the sentences into one paragraph.

TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT

- Ben Franklin was a printer. _____
- He began his own printing business. _____
- Benjamin was 24 when he started it. _____

- Benjamin Franklin was married. _____
- Ben was married when he was 26. _____
- Ben Franklin married Deborah Read. _____

- Benjamin Franklin retired from business. _____
- Ben retired when he was 40 years old. _____
- When Benjamin was 40 he was wealthy. _____

- Benjamin Franklin retired. _____
- Ben worked after he retired. _____
- After retirement he did scientific work. _____
- After retirement he did public work. _____

- Benjamin Franklin was a famous man. _____
- Ben is called the "first American." _____
- Benjamin had many fine qualities. _____
- Ben put God before himself. _____
- Ben put his country before himself. _____

Using Sentence combining exercises allows teachers to provide activities that reverse the study of grammar (transformational). Rather than study the deep structure that underlies or supports the kernal string, the deep structure is identified and students are allowed to construct the kernal string. The words presented may be given to the students for them to use to make more exacting kernal sentences.