

Practice with Verbals, Phrases and Clauses using *A Tale of Two Cities*

THE TEST IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 27!

Part 1: Identifying Prepositional Phrases and Appositives

Write whether the underlined item in each sentence is an adjective phrase, adverb phrase, or appositive phrase. Then, write the word or words that each phrase modifies.

1. For most people, reading *A Tale of Two Cities* is a challenge.

2. For one thing, the book in its entirety is very complex.

3. Good readers, people who read a lot, will not have a problem.

4. Dickens himself used to read the book to large audiences and crowds.

5. Readers in Dickens day—lovers of mystery and suspense—could not wait to get the next book.

6. The difference is that serials instead of books were published.

7. There are, to name a few, many authors who published books in sections.

8. Those authors, the writers of Dickens's' day, wrote for the same audience.

9. Even among those published, though, Dickens was much-admired.

10. Others who enjoyed his writing never were as popular.

Part 2: Identifying Verbals

Underline the verbal phrase in each sentence. Then write whether the phrase is participial, gerund or infinitive. (THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE)

11. Dickens was an author who seemed driven to write for many years.

12. Growing up poor, he never had much experience with happiness.

13. His worst experience in childhood was working in a shoe polish factory.

14. An unlucky man, his father was always in debt and Charles, his son, was forced to work.

15. By the time he was a teenager he was only interested in being able to support himself.

16. In 1831, he began a career as a parliamentary reporter to learn more about politics.

17. Succeeding as a journalist requires attention to detail and persistence.

18. After working for a while, he began writing for newspapers.

19. Writing about real events made him known, but his first published stories made him famous.

20. Making him a star at a young age, his books changed his life.

Part 3: Identifying Subordinate Clauses

Underline the subordinate clause in each sentence. Then write whether the clause is adjective, adverb or noun. If a clause is elliptical, write the missing word or words in brackets.

21. When Charles Dickens was only twenty-one years old, he published his first sketch.
22. Interestingly, he chose the pen name "Boz" because he wanted to remain anonymous.
23. His readers did not know that Boz was a young nobody.
24. Though he was not yet well known, Boz became popular very quickly as Dickens.
25. His father often tried to take all of his money, enough though he earned it himself.
26. Who would think that a poor boy would rise so fast?
27. Dickens often wrote humorous stories because he saw funny things in the world around him.
28. This focus, which was unusual, allowed him to appeal to broad audiences.
29. Wherever his readers were, they enjoyed his stories of London.
30. Because of this success, Dickens soon became a household name.

Part 4: Forming New Sentences with Phrases and Clauses

Write a new sentence by combining the sentences or sentence parts in each item. Follow the directions in brackets.

1. Many of Dickens's books feature the downtrodden. Downtrodden means poor. [Write a sentence with an appositive phrase.]

2. What some people prefer are his child characters. Others prefer his villains. [Use a semicolon to create a compound-complex sentence.]

3. Dickens seemed to like characters like these. Many of these books feature them. [Write a complex sentence that begins with an adverb clause]

4. Dickens was writing long before soap operas. His books are much like modern soap operas. [Write a sentence beginning with a participial phrase]

5. Publishing books. That was Dickens's life. [Write a complex sentence with a gerund as subject.]
