

A **complete sentence** consists of a **complete subject** and a **complete predicate**. A **sentence fragment** does not express a complete thought. It may be missing a subject, predicate, or both.

complete subject
complete predicate  
 The new art museum opened on July 10.

**Directions:** *Read this sports report and correct any errors you find. (There are four sentence fragment errors.)*

Despite the threat of rain yesterday, the Wolverines played. A full nine innings against the rival Milltown Panthers. The talented outfielder, Lonnie Smith, was. The difference in the game with three key defensive plays. Including a home run-robbing effort at the center field wall. Smith was also the hero. At the plate, reaching base three times and scoring twice in the Wolverines 3-2 victory.

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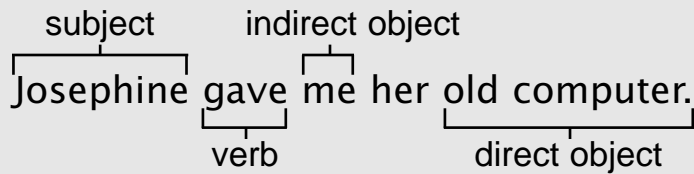
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Another type of **sentence fragment** occurs when a phrase contains a simple subject and a simple predicate but lacks a direct or indirect object.



**Directions:** *Read this excerpt from an essay and correct any errors you find. (There are four sentence fragment errors.)*

My favorite things to do during summer are playing tennis and swimming. I wake up early and ride. My bike to the park to play tennis. After a couple of hours, I again ride and head toward the community pool. By that time, I am looking forward to taking in the cool water. Sometimes I will meet. My friends at the pool. All of us enjoy.

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my bike  
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jumping into  
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the summer sun  
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The **tense** of a verb shows when an action occurred. The two most common tenses are **present** and **past**. Helping verbs and main verbs form two other important tenses: **future** and **perfect**. All of these tenses have **progressive** forms.

<b>Present:</b> teaches	<b>Present progressive:</b> is teaching
<b>Past:</b> taught	<b>Past progressive:</b> was teaching
<b>Future:</b> will teach	<b>Future progressive:</b> will be teaching
<b>Perfect:</b> has taught	

**Directions:** *Read this advertisement and correct any errors you find. (There are five errors in consistent verb tense.)*

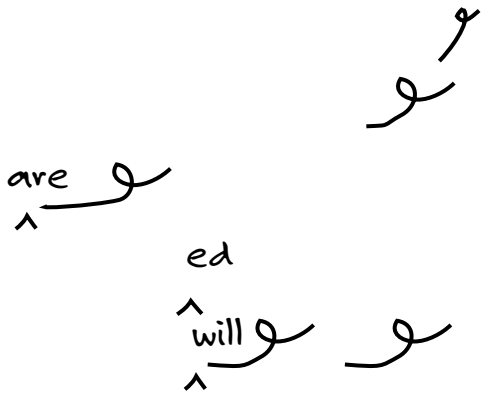
Come to the grand opening of the newest New World Grocery! We will served you delicious foods from our bakery and deli. We offered foods from around the world. Our foods were guaranteed to be fresh. Customers who have already discover our store refuse to shop anywhere else. We are sure that you are feeling the same way. Just try us and see!

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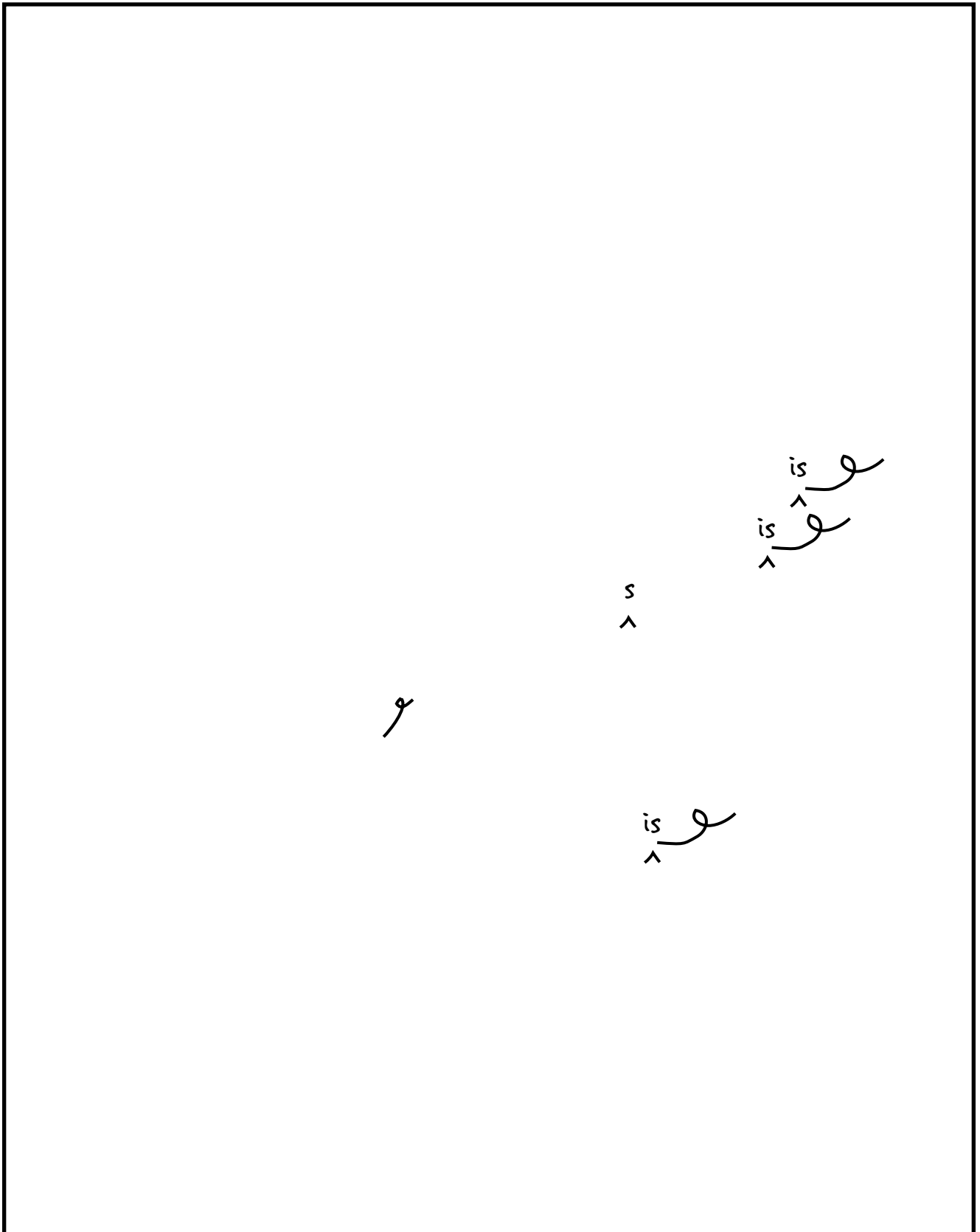
**Subject-verb agreement** means that singular nouns require singular verb forms and plural nouns require plural verb forms. When a clause or phrase separates the subject of a sentence from the verb, the verb should still agree with the original subject.



The parents, who have formed a committee, believe that there should be a 10 o'clock curfew.

**Directions:** *Read this report and correct any errors you find. (There are five errors in subject-verb agreement.)*

Poison ivy, like poison oak and poison sumac, are not a plant you want to get close to. Almost everybody are allergic to the plant. The oil in the plants cause the problems. When you brush against poison ivy, you release the oils. These oils from the plant irritates your skin and cause swelling and itching. If you touch poison ivy, wash your skin with warm water. The best of all remedies, however, are to avoid the plant altogether.



Whenever a sentence contains a list of items in a series, the items should be written in a grammatically similar form. This writing device is called **parallelism**.

The plays of William Shakespeare have remained popular for hundreds of years because of their beautiful language, their universal themes, and <sup>their humor and sadness.</sup> ~~they provoke laughter and tears.~~

**Directions:** *Read this review and correct any errors you find. (There are four parallel structure errors.)*

I was pleased by the Impromptu Group's reading of *Romeo and Juliet*. The actors seemed relaxed, familiar with the material, and they had focus. They spoke clearly, expressively, and with so much power. The spotlights served to set the mood, provide the actors with light, and helping the audience see who was talking. The director, who is known for her work on stage, in film, and especially in television, answered questions after the performance.





it does g  
^

her g  
Snow White g  
^

they g  
she g  
^

A **run-on sentence** is two or more sentences incorrectly written as one. One type of run-on is a sentence that contains two simple sentences joined by only a comma.

Jeffrey loaded the software onto his computer,<sup>but</sup> it didn't work.

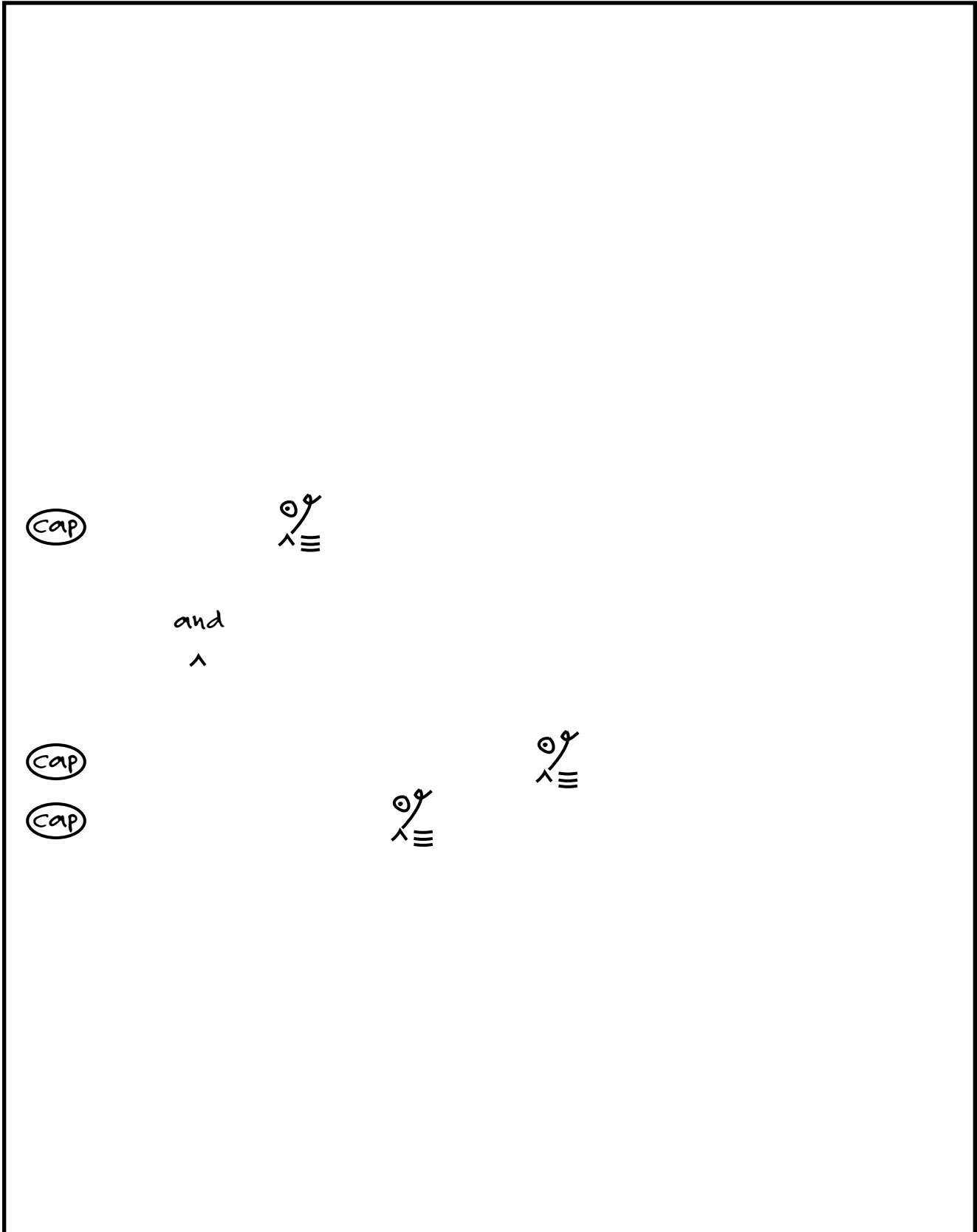
**Directions:** *Read this postcard and correct any errors you find. (There are four run-on sentence errors.)*

Dear Len,

This beautiful ocean view is Gloucester Harbor in Massachusetts, it is a historic harbor where people have fished for hundreds of years. Right on the harbor is St. Peter's Square, every June a festival is held there to honor those who fish in the rough waters outside the harbor. Not far from the square is a small stone house, it was once the home of painter Fitz Hugh Lane, he could paint great seascapes just by looking out his window.

See you soon!

Megan



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and  
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cap

cap

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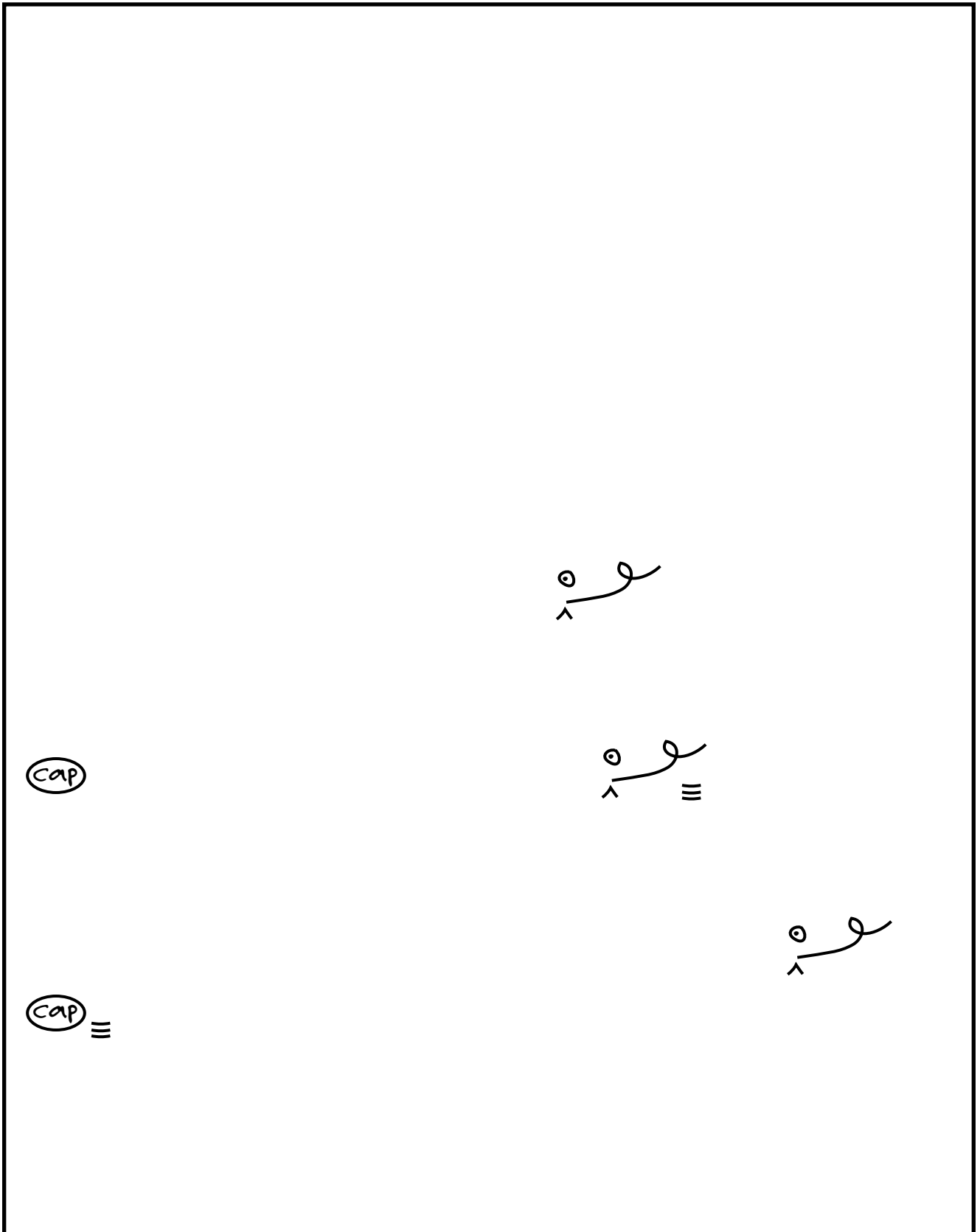
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One type of **run-on sentence** is formed when too many independent clauses are strung together with **coordinating conjunctions**.

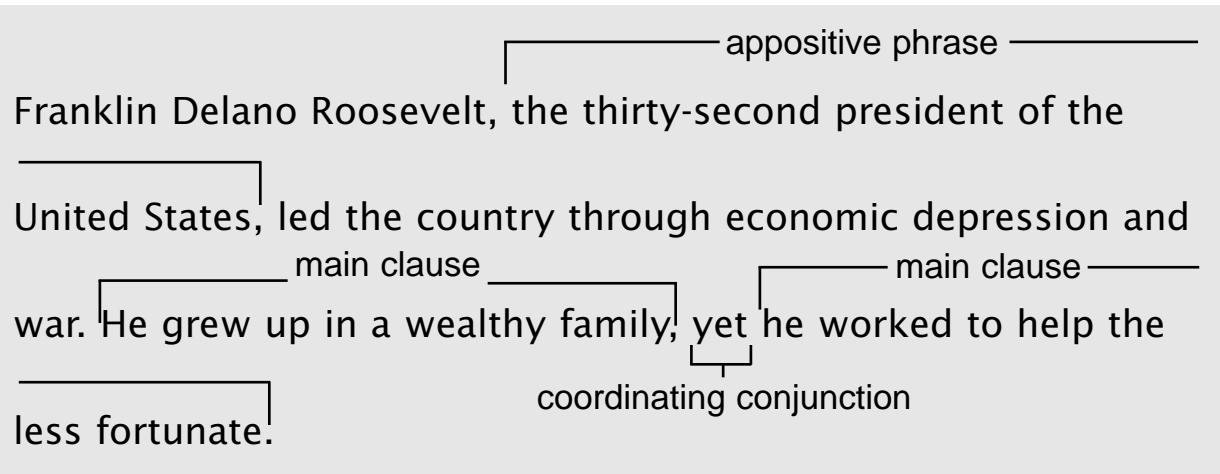
Gabriela was an experienced rock climber, and she knew that before she could climb she had to check her equipment, ~~and so~~ she checked that her safety belt was buckled correctly, and then she checked that her ropes were properly attached to the belt.

**Directions:** *Read this essay and correct any errors you find. (There are three run-on sentence errors.)*

When I was in high school, my parents told me that I would make a great engineer, but I really enjoyed English class, but I did not want to disappoint anyone. I was determined to do the best that I could in math, so I stayed up late every night studying geometry, but what I enjoyed most was reading a poem before bed. When I got to college, most of my friends were involved in art and poetry, and they invited me to go to poetry readings and art exhibits, and after a while, I knew that I had to give up trying to please other people.

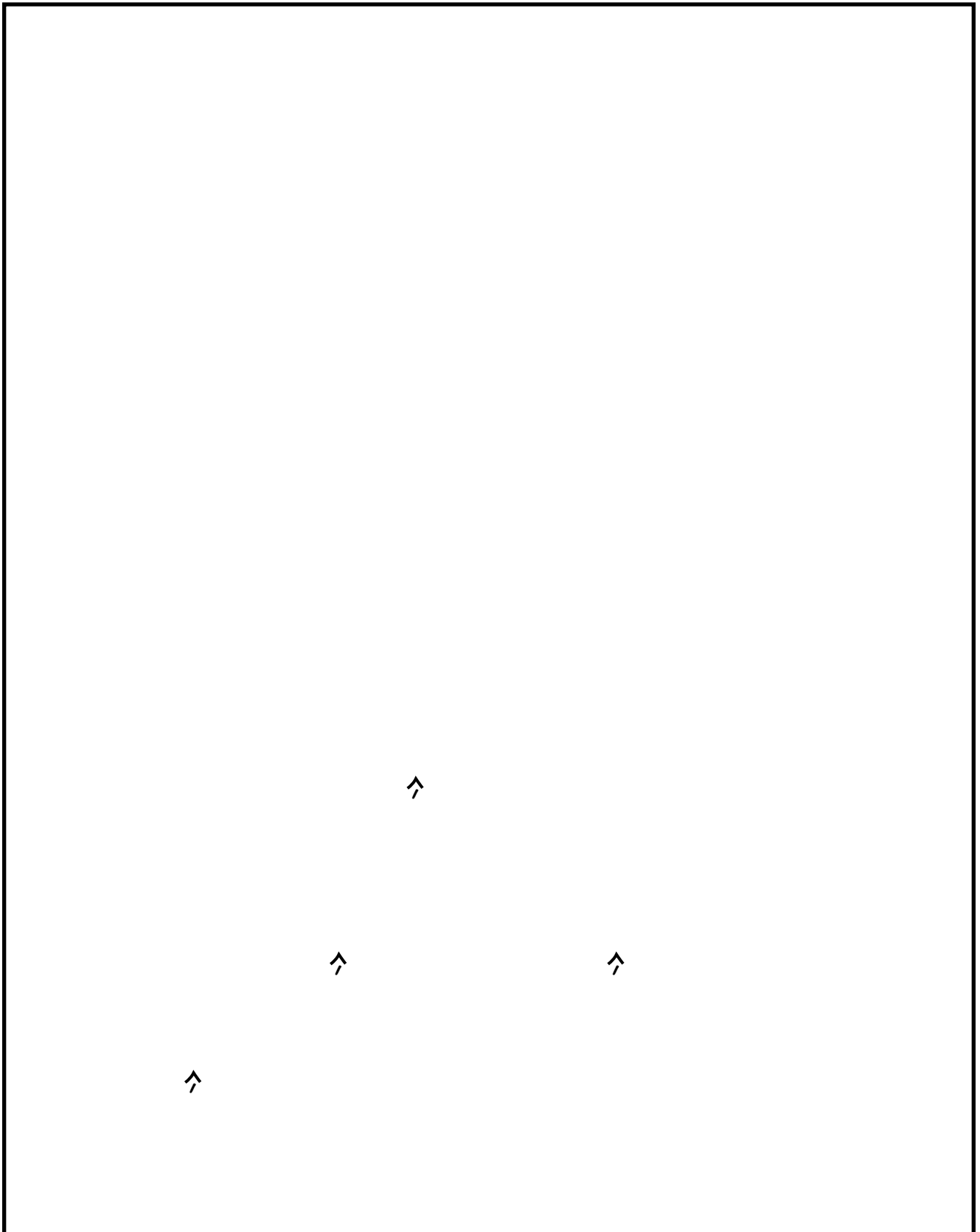


An **appositive** is a noun that is placed next to another noun to identify or add information about it. An **appositive phrase** is a group of words that contains an appositive. Appositive phrases are usually off-set by commas. In a sentence with two **main clauses**, a comma is necessary before the coordinating conjunction that joins the clauses.



**Directions:** *Read this biography and correct any errors you find. (There are four missing commas.)*

Eleanor Roosevelt wife of President Franklin Roosevelt, was born into a powerful family. Despite her family name, she was a shy young woman who only entered the political scene after her husband the future president contracted polio. Mrs. Roosevelt dedicated her life to fighting injustice. She was soft spoken yet she was a fierce supporter of human rights.

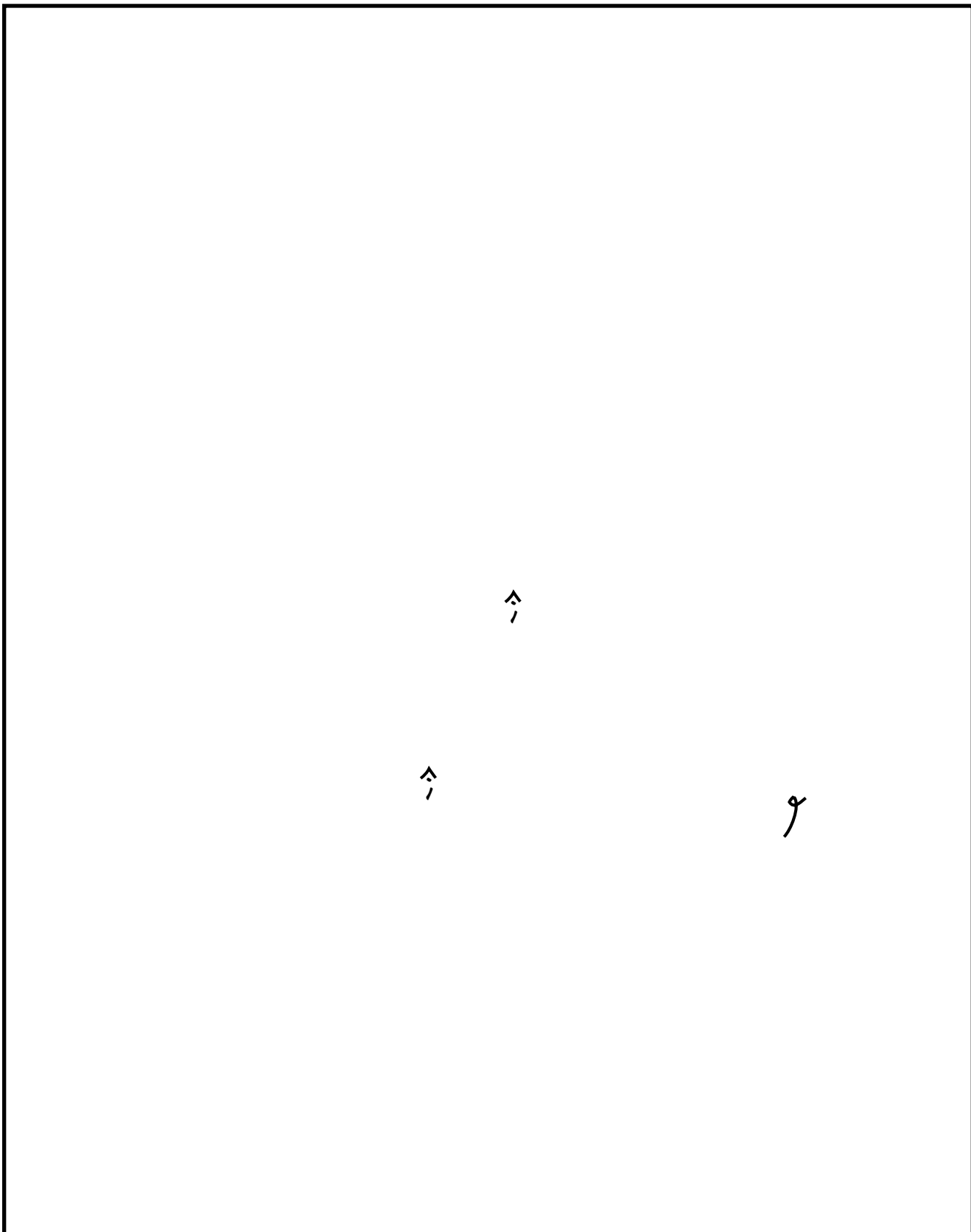


Use a **semicolon** to separate main clauses that are not joined by a coordinating conjunction. Semicolons may also be used to separate main clauses joined by a conjunctive adverb. Expressions like *in fact* and *for example* are sometimes more clear when a semicolon is used.

The results of the study were inconclusive; <sup>conjunctive adverb</sup> consequently, further tests will have to be done.

**Directions:** *Read this paragraph and correct any errors you find. (There are three errors involving semicolons.)*

It is generally believed that democracy was a concept invented by the ancient Greeks however, although the Greek system allowed all citizens to vote, most people were not citizens. Only ten percent of people living in the Greek empire were considered citizens, in fact, minorities, women, slaves, and foreigners were not eligible to become citizens; or to vote. Representative governments, such as that in the United States, did not develop for hundreds of years after the Greeks.



**Voice** is the feature of verbs that tells whether the subject is acting or is being acted upon. When the subject is being acted upon, the verb is in the **passive voice**. The **active voice** is more precise and is generally considered preferable to the passive voice. *Never* shift from one voice to the other in the middle of a sentence.

The goalie stopped the ball from going into the net, and  
he threw the ball onto the field  
then ~~the ball was thrown onto the field by him.~~

**Directions:** *Read this paragraph and change sentences written in the passive voice to the active voice. (There are four passive-voice sentences.)*

Roberta is being offered money by Michelle for dance lessons. Roberta was recognized as a good dancer at age six by her parents. She continues to be taught by the same professional dancer she knew when she first started. At age sixteen, she still is fulfilled by dancing.



A **participle** is formed by adding *-ing* (present participle) or *-ed* (past participle) to a verb. A **participial phrase** is a group of words that includes a participle. A misplaced participial phrase is a phrase that is not placed close enough to the word it describes.

participle phrase

 Touched by their kindness, <sup>^</sup>the older woman thanked the children  
~~the children were thanked by the~~  
~~older woman.~~

**Directions:** *Read this description and correct any errors you find. (There are four misplaced participle errors.)*

Worn here and there, I looked at the quilt that Great-grandmother Nona had made many years before. Piecing it together by hand, the quilt was sewn by Nona under the light of an old lamp. Squinting at the quilt now, her stitches seem impossibly small. I wonder how she managed to make such precise stitches without a machine. Unfolding the quilt, it was as if I could almost feel Nona in the room with me.

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 had sewn the quilt  
I notice <sup>^</sup> that  
^

