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Quiz & Worksheet - Parentheses & Dashes in ACT English

1.
Choose the best replacement for the underlined portion of the sentence:
Mark's grocery list - cheese, bread, wine, olives, and figs, reflected his dinner plans for the evening.
- ☐ (as it is now)
 - ☐ olives, and figs, reflected his dinner plans
 - ☐ olives, and figs - reflected his dinner plans
 - ☐ olives, and figs; reflected his dinner plans
 - ☐ olives, and figs, it reflected his dinner plans
2.
Choose the best replacement for the underlined portion of the sentence:
Lucy had packed up everything; lunch, books, pencils, and gym uniform, the night before, so it only took her a few minutes to get ready in the morning.
- ☐ (As it is now)
 - ☐ everything; lunch, books, pencils, and gym uniform, The night before
 - ☐ everything; lunch, books, pencils, and gym uniform, the night before
 - ☐ everything (lunch, books, pencils, and gym uniform) the night before
 - ☐ everything; lunch, books, pencils, and gym uniform - the night before
3.
Alastair took the long way around: he had plenty of time and wanted to enjoy the scenery.
Which of the following would NOT be an appropriate way to deal with this sentence?
- ☐ Leave it as it is.
 - ☐ Insert a dash between 'around' and 'he.'
 - ☐ Break it into two sentences with a period after 'around.'
 - ☐ Replace the colon with a semicolon.
 - ☐ Replace the colon with a comma.

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Remove the relative pronoun.Remove the verb "be."Place the present participle phrase after the modified noun. Sign-up for Free Grammar Tips into your Inbox! New! Comments Any questions or comments about the grammar discussed on this page?Post your comment here. published that year published Reduced relative clauses are shortened versions of relative clauses. Remove the relative pronoun.Remove the verb "be."Place the past participle before the modified noun. The man who works at Costco lives in Seattle.I gave a book, which was written by Hemingway, to Mary last week. A phrase does not contain a subject or verb. If it is a negative sentence, then we use 'not' at the beginning of the participle phrase.Note that in these reduced relative clause examples there are a mix of active tenses: Affirmatives:The people that exercised every day lost the most weightThe people exercising every day lost the most weightThere were many employees who were working very hardThere were many employees working very hardThe MPs, who have finally voted, are leaving parliamentThe MPs, having finally voted, are leaving parliamentNegatives:The people that did not exercise every day lost the least weightThe people not exercising every day lost the most weight It is worth noting at this point that if a non-defining participle phrase refers to the subject of the independent clause, the phrase may be placed either immediately before or after the subject of that independent clause.So in the case of this sentence, 'having finally voted' refers to the MPs in the independent clause (MPs are leaving parliament), so it can be placed in two positions: The MPs, who have finally voted, are leaving parliamentThe MPs, having finally voted, are leaving parliamentOR:Having finally voted, The MPs are leaving parliament Past Participle Phrases Simple Tenses If the relative clause is in the passive voice and in a simple tense, then it can be reduced by deleting the relative pronoun and the verb 'to be', leaving you with the past participle. If it is a negative, then you place 'not' at the beginning of the participle phrase. Examples: The new illness, which was discovered by a doctor in Nigeria, has not yet been namedThe new illness, discovered by a doctor in Nigeria, has not yet been namedThe silk, which is imported from Thailand, is worth a lotThe silk, imported from Thailand, is worth a lot If it is in the passive voice but is a continuous tense verb (present or past), then you delete the connecting word and 'to be', leaving you with 'being + past participle' You then have a continuous passive participle phrase. Examples: The building, which is being built by Kingston Developers, should be completed by MayThe building, being built by Kingston Developers, should be completed by May If the clause in the passive perfect tense (present or past), then 'have' or 'had' is replaced by 'having'. Remove the verb (usually "be," but also "seem," "appear," etc.). Some action verbs reduce to the present participle ("ing" form) especially when the present tense is used: Examples: The man who lives near my home walks to work every day. Reduced: The man living near my home walks to work every day.The girl who attends my school lives at the end of the street. Reduced: The girl attending my school lives at the end of the street. This is the main distinction. Nonfinite clause —consisting of two houses— the clause has a verbal form, a participle, not marked by tense. When to Choose the Present Participle If you do not wish to emphasise in the participle phrase the prior completion of the activity, then it is more common to use the present participle. In this case 'have' is omitted and the main verb of the relative clause is changed to the present participle. Examples: The students that have studied the hardest have the best results The students studying the hardest have the best results We've been looking at present and past participle phrases, but it should also be noted that we can in cases reduce relative clauses with just a past participle. We can do this if the sentence has the verb 'to be' or 'to have' and only a past participle. Place the adjective phrase after the modified noun. You're Reading a Free Preview Page 4 is not shown in this preview. Examples: The car, which was purchased in Seattle, was a vintage Mustang. Reduced: The car purchased in Seattle was a vintage Mustang.The elephant, which was born in captivity, was set free. Reduced: The elephant born in captivity was set free. However, reduced relative clauses in the form of present and past participle phrases is seen as a higher level skill. Want to become an expert at relative clauses, including practice with reduced relative clauses?Take the A to Z of Relative Clauses Online Course The two types of clauses in English grammar are the independent and dependent clause. Sentence clauses are the building blocks of writing and you need to understand these for your academic writing. There are different reduced relative clause rules depending on the sentence involved. Types of Reduced Relative Clauses Reduced relative clauses are mainly created through the use of: Present participle phrases Past participle phrases Past Participles Prepositional PhrasesAdjectives and adjective phrasesWe'll now look at each of these in turn. Examples: The product, which seemed perfect in many ways, failed to succeed in the market. Reduced: The product, perfect in many ways, failed to succeed in the market.The boy who was pleased by his grades went out with his friends to celebrate. Reduced: The boy, pleased by his grades, went out with his friends to celebrate. They are also known as reduced adjective clauses. Relative clauses usually modify a noun or noun phrase in the sentence as in this example, where the word 'table' is being modified:The table that he bought was for his kitchenIn this reduced clause, 'that' is no longer used:The table he bought was for his kitchenHowever, it is not always just a matter of omitting the relative pronoun. Remove the verb "be." Place the past participle phrase after the modified noun. which were published that year "were published" is passive Example Reduced Adjective Clause Participle that starts the reduced clause The books published that year are expensive. Examples: The box, which was on the table, was made in Italy. Reduced: The box on the table was made in Italy.The woman who was at the meeting spoke about business in Europe. Reduced: The woman at the meeting spoke about business in Europe. It's simple to know which one to use: if the reduced clause is made from an active verb, start the adjective clause with the present participle, but if it's made from a passive verb, begin the adjective clause with a past participle. Examples: The desk, which was stained, was antique. Reduced: The stained desk was antique.The man who was elected was very popular. Reduced: The elected man was very popular. who was carrying an umbrella "was carrying" is active Example Reduced Adjective Clause Participle that starts the reduced clause I saw a man carrying an umbrella. Relative clause reduction refers to removing a relative pronoun to reduce: An adjective/person who was happy: happy personAn adjective phrase/man who was responsible for: man responsible forA prepositional phrase/boxes that are under the counter: boxes under the counterA past participle/student that was elected president: student elected presidentA present participle/people who are working on the report: people working on the report Remove the relative pronoun.Remove the verb (usually "be," but also "seem," "appear," etc.).Place the adjective used in the relative clause before the modified noun. Present Participle Phrases If the relative pronoun is the subject of the relative clause, then the clause can be reduced to a present participle (verb + ing) phase or past participle (verb + ed) phrase.If the verb is in the active voice, it gets reduced to a present participle phrase. Any active tense can be changed to a present participle phrase e.g. present simple, past simple, present continuous, present perfect etc.To do this you delete the relative pronoun and any auxiliary verbs if there are any, and use the present participle of the main verb. Both have a subject and verb which makes them clauses, but while independent clauses express a complete thought, dependent clauses do not. A finite clause (containing a verb marked with tense) can be changed to a nonfinite subordinate clause (containing a verbal form - a past participle, gerund-participle, or infinitive) which becomes a modifying part of another sentence element —adjectival, adverbial, or nominal. For example, the ordinary adjective clause in the first example: Example 1 Example Adjective Clause Verb in the adjective clause I saw a man who was carrying an umbrella. Remove the verb "be." Place the prepositional phrase after the modified noun. Reduced relative clauses modify the subject and not the object of a sentence. Much like adjectives, relative clauses, also known as adjective clauses, modify nouns. A clause contains a subject and a verb and can express a complete thought. Finite clause — which consists of two houses— the clause has the internal structure of a sentence—it has a subject and a verb marked with tense. As the grammatically correct reduction of relative clauses is quite a difficult skill, it is something the examiner in the IELTS test will look out for when awarding a band 7 and above for grammatical range and accuracy. Note though that this will NOT include reducing relative clauses to prepositional phrases, adjective phrases, or adjectives because when you do this you are creating a more simple sentence, carrying an umbrella carrying We use "carrying" in the reduced clause because it comes from the active verb in the original clause. Phrases and clauses are the key building blocks of sentences. "Non-finite clauses as modifiers and supplements" (Huddleston 14 §9) A reduced adjective clause begins with either a present participle or a past participle. In above examples, "who works at Costco" modifies—or provides information about—the "man" who is the subject of the sentence. Examples: The car, which had broken down, was by the edge of the roadThe broken down car was by the edge of the roadThe glass, which is stained, needs cleaningThe stained glass needs cleaning If the relative pronoun is followed by a prepositional phrase, then this can be reduced. Examples: The book that is on the table is mineThe book on the table is mineThe house which is across the street is for saleThe house across the street is for saleThe man who is in the jacket is my cousinThe man in the jacket is my cousin If the relative clause has only an adjective and the verb to be within it, then the adjective can be placed before the noun, and the relative pronoun (and verb 'to be') can be deleted: Examples: The boy who is oldest won the raceThe oldest boy won the raceYou can carry the box that is lightestYou can carry the lightest boxLet's go to the country which is the hottestLet's go to the hottest country If there is a verb other than the verb to be (usually sense verbs such as smell, look, feel, sound etc), then we reduce it to an adjective phrase: Examples: The egg, which smelled foul, couldn't be eatenThe foul smelling egg couldn't be eatenI played the song that sounded the bestI played the best soundingHe always wears clothes that look expensiveHe always wears expensive looking clothes Reduced relative clauses can be used to make your writing more concise, so it is common to use them within formal or academic writing, though they can appear in any style of writing. Remove the relative pronoun. In this case we can move the past participle to before the modified noun. working there working Example 3 Example Adjective Clause Verb in the adjective clause The books which were published that year are expensive, who worked there "worked" is active Example Reduced Adjective Clause Participle that starts the reduced clause The people working there got a raise last year. Example 2 Example Adjective Clause Verb in the adjective clause The people who worked there got a raise last year. The second example sentence cannot be reduced because the relative clause "which was written by Hemingway" modifies an object of the verb "give." Relative clauses can also be reduced to shorter forms if the relative clause modifies the subject of a sentence. Examples: The professor who is teaching mathematics will leave the university. Reduced: The professor teaching mathematics will leave the university.The dog that is lying on the floor won't get up. Reduced: The dog lying on the floor won't get up. In the second sentence, "which was written by Hemingway" modifies the object "book." Using a reduced relative clause we can reduce the first sentence to: The man working at Costco lives in Seattle. Examples: The children who were happy played until nine in the evening. Reduced: The happy children played until nine in the evening.The house, which was beautiful, was sold for \$300,000. Reduced: The beautiful house was sold for \$300,000. So we end up with 'having + been' to make the reduced relative clause.This is a perfect passive participle phrase: Examples: The new Town Hall, which has been designed by TMC Architects Ltd, is expected to receive several awardsThe new Town Hall, having been designed by TMC Architects Ltd, is expected to receive several awardsTaiwan, which had been one of the first countries to close its borders, showed low numbers of Covid-19 deaths in MarchTaiwan, having been one of the first countries to close its borders, showed low numbers of Covid-19 deaths in March Again, if the non-defining participle phrase refers to the subject of the independent clause, the phrase may be placed either immediately before or after the subject of that independent clause: Examples: Having been designed by TMC Architects Ltd, the new Town Hall, is expected to receive several awardsHaving been one of the first countries to close its borders, Taiwan showed low numbers of Covid-19 deaths in March In the case of the perfect tenses, you can choose either a present or past participle, depending on what you wish to emphasise in the sentence. When to Choose the Past participle If you wish to emphasise the prior completion of the activity in the participle phrase, 'have' is changed to 'having', leaving you with 'having + past participle' You will then have formed a perfect active participle phrase: Examples: The students that have studied the hardest have the best results The students having studied the hardest have the best results So in the above example, it emphasised that the hard studying took place before the best results. Modified clause: The federal agency — locating the prison on Alcatraz — preferred the isolation of the island. Reduced relative clauses refer to the shortening of a relative clause which modifies the subject of a sentence. The clause becomes part of another sentence element, in this case, the subject—the congress.

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