

## GTHS English Department – Daily Grammar Practice (DGP) Notes

### 1. Label the clauses (aka “families”)

Clause Type	Definition	Examples
Independent (ind) aka...a sentence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ has a subject</li> <li>▪ has a verb</li> <li>▪ completes a thought (can stand alone)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>She had not finished the paper and was sure to earn a low grade.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>It has been so hot this summer.</i></li> </ul>
Dependent (dep) aka...a fragment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ begins with a subordinating conjunction</li> <li>▪ has a subject</li> <li>▪ has a verb</li> <li>▪ does NOT complete a thought</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Because she had not finished the paper</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Although it has been so hot this summer</i></li> </ul>

### 2. Label the sentence type

Sentence Type	Definition	Examples
Simple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ one independent clause</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>During the summer, I refuse to set my alarm clock.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>It has been so hot this summer.</i></li> </ul>
Compound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>I would love to meet for lunch, but I have a doctor’s appointment at that time.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>One of my favorite TV shows is Glee, and I hope it stays on the air for a long time.</i></li> </ul>
Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ one independent clause + one or more dependent clauses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>I often work on my computer while I watch TV.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Because you were so rude to me, I will not be able to do what you ask.</i></li> </ul>
Compound/Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ two or more independent clauses + one or more dependent clauses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Though Mitchell prefers watching romantic films, he rented the latest spy thriller, and he enjoyed it very much.</i></li> </ul>

### 3. Edit for punctuation

Punctuation	Definition	Examples
comma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ before a coordinating conjunction that is joining independent clauses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Mary counsels students, and she volunteers at the local hospital.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>John planned to invest his tax return, but he bought a computer instead.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>I don’t like brussel sprouts, nor do I like artichokes.</i></li> </ul>
	<p>⚠ WARNING: DO NOT USE COMMAS BEFORE CONJUNCTIONS THAT JOIN WORDS OR PHRASES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Mary counsels students and delivers meals to shut-ins.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Two inches of snow and a glazing ice covered the street.</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ after introductory phrases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>While sitting in class, I felt myself get sleepy.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Driving around town, I noticed that most people were driving slower to save gas.</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ after introductory dependent clauses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Because Sheri ate too much, she got heartburn while running on the treadmill.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>When I hear students complaining, I know that it is likely that they are just frustrated.</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ after introductory words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>However, you may not be satisfied with the results.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Unfortunately, I cannot give you the answer you want to hear.</i></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to set off quotations that are followed, preceded, or interrupted with a signal phrase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Sometimes love it stronger than a man’s convictions,” wrote Issac Singer.</i></li> <li><i>John F. Kennedy said, “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”</i></li> <li><i>“I never forget a face,” said Grouch Marx, “but in your case, I’ll make an exception.”</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to set off nonessential phrases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Alan, awakened by a strange noise, wondered if he had remembered to lock the door when he went to bed.</i></li> <li><i>Romeo and Juliet, a Shakespearean play about two feuding families, is set in Verona.</i></li> <li><i>A 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, which killed 146 sweatshop workers, led to reforms in working conditions.</i></li> </ul>
	<p>⚠ WARNING: DO NOT USE COMMAS TO SET OFF ESSENTIAL PHRASES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The song “Vertigo” was blasted out of the amplifiers.</i></li> <li><i>Margaret Mead’s book <u>Coming of Age in Samoa</u> caused controversy when it was published.</i></li> <li><i>Those people who have already purchased tickets may enter the theater now.</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with parallel words and phrases (aka – lists)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The department store offered a suit, a shirt, and a tie for one low price.</i></li> <li><i>The kitten stalked the ball of yarn behind the curtain, over the television, and under the table.</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>between coordinate adjectives (adjectives are “coordinate” if they can be connected with “and”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>How long should patients with severe, irreversible brain damage be on life support?</i></li> <li><i>Students with consistent, disciplined study habits are often successful in English classes.</i></li> </ul>
semicolon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use between independent clauses not joined with a coordinating conjunction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Injustice is relatively easy to bear; what stings is justice.</i></li> <li><i>He swallowed a lot of wisdom; however, it seemed as if all of it had gone down the wrong way.</i></li> </ul>
<p>⚠ WARNING: A SEMICOLON IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH A PERIOD. RATHER, A SEMICOLON IS A STYLISTIC ELEMENT THAT SHOULD BE USED FOR A VERY SPECIFIC REASON.</p>		
colon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tells the reader that what follows is closely related to the preceding clause                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More effect than the comma</li> <li>Less power to separate than the semicolon</li> <li>More formality than the dash</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Your dedicated whittler requires three props: a knife, a piece of wood, and a back porch.</i></li> <li><i>The squalor of the streets reminded her of a line from Oscar Wilde: “We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.”</i></li> </ul>
dash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets off an abrupt break or interruption                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stronger than a comma</li> <li>Less formal than a colon</li> <li>And more relaxed than parentheses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>His first thought on getting out of bed – if he had any thought at all – was to get back in again.</i></li> <li><i>The rear axle began to make a noise – a grinding, chattering, gritting rasp.</i></li> </ul>

### Example of a Sentence Labeled for Parts of the Sentence

a man who robbed a fast-food restaurant with a gun was so mad about the amount of loot that he called back twice to complain