



Expansion Activities
Understanding and Using English Grammar, 3rd Edition
Chapter 18: Reduction of Adverb Clauses

Activity: Rewriting a Text

Materials needed: A text that lends itself to be rewritten with modifying adverbial phrases. Sample text is from Voice of America: “Edward Hopper’s Simple Paintings Hold Meaning for Americans.” It can be found at <http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/2006-09-24-voa1.cfm>

Description: Students read an article about the American painter Edward Hopper. In pairs, students can rewrite the article using modifying adverb phrases. This article works well because it is biographic and therefore has many instances of the same subject doing multiple actions.

Some excerpts are provided below with ideas for possible rewrites, but it is a long article, and it has very many rewrite possibilities. Putting students into pairs to do this with one student being the writer will make this an interactive experience.

Also, if you have computers, it is helpful to format the activity as it is formatted in the example. It helps students organize their ideas, and eliminates extraneous typing that can lead to increased errors. It will also help you make corrections if you can easily see what the original was.

Original Text	Rewrite using Modifying Adverb Clauses
In June of 2006, visitors entered the redesigned Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. for the first time. When these people walked into the building, they saw two simple, colorful paintings.	Upon entering the redesigned Smithsonian American Art Museum in June of 2006 for the first time, visitors saw two simple, colorful paintings.
Edward Hopper was born in eighteen eighty-two in Nyack, a small town in New York state. From a young age, Edward knew he wanted to be a painter. <i>His parents were not wealthy people. They thought Edward should learn to paint and make prints to advertise for businesses.</i>	Not being wealthy people, his parents thought he should learn to paint and make prints to advertise for businesses.
Edward listened to his mother and father. In nineteen hundred, he moved to New York City to study commercial art.	Listening to his mother and father, Edward moved to New York City in 1900 to study commercial art.
Hopper studied with Henri in New York City for six years. During those years,	While studying with Henri for six years, Hopper dreamed of going to Europe.



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Hopper dreamed of going to Europe.	
With help from his parents, Hopper finally traveled to Europe in nineteen-oh-six. He lived in Paris, France for several months. He returned again in nineteen-oh-nine and nineteen-ten.	Receiving help from his parents, Hopper finally traveled to Europe in 1906. After living in Paris, France for several months, he returned again in 1909 and 1910.

At the end of this activity, it's important to point out to students that modifying phrases are just another tool in their writing tool belt to help add variety to their papers. Just as they would not want to begin every sentence with a prepositional phrase, or with a subject and verb construction, they would not want too large a portion of their writing to be adverbial phrases either. Variety is the key to interesting and skilled writing.