**Grammar – sentence combining activity NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions:** Combine the following groups of simple sentences into one or more longer sentences. Omit repeated words.

1. My car is not starting on cold mornings. I think the battery needs to be replaced. I already had it recharged once. I don’t think it would help to charge it again.
2. Louse used a dandruff shampoo. She still had dandruff. She decided to see a dermatologist.
3. Al’s parents want him to be a doctor. Al wants to be a salesman. He impresses people with his charm.
4. The teacher conducted a discussion period. Jack sat at the desk with his head down. He did not want the teacher to call on him. He had not read the assignment.
5. Lola wanted to get a quick lunch at the cafeteria. All the sandwiches were gone. She had to settle for a cup of yogurt.
6. Ed skimmed through the help-wanted ads. Nothing was there for him. He desperately needed a job. He would have to sell his car. He could no longer keep up the payments.
7. The meat loaf didn’t taste right. The mashed potatoes had too much salt in them. We sent out for a pizza. It was delivered late. It was cold.
8. My car was struck from behind yesterday. I slowed suddenly for a red light. The driver of the truck behind me slammed on his brakes. He didn’t quite stop on time.
9. I ate too quickly. My stomach became upset. It felt like a war combat zone. I took two Alka-Seltzer tablets.
10. Midge is always buying plants and flower seeds. She enjoys growing things. Not many things grow well for her. She doesn’t know why.

**II. Other patterns that Add Variety**

-ing Word Groups Example: The doctor examined the x-rays. He hoped for the best.

The doctor, *hoping* for the best, examined the x-rays.

Combine each pair of sentences below into one sentence by using an –ing word and omitting repeated words. Use a comma or commas to set off the –ing word group from the rest of the sentence.

1. Ginger refused to get out of bed. She pulled the blue blanket over her head.
2. Dad is able to forget the troubles of the day. He putters around in his basement workshop.
3. The crowds of dancers moved as one. They swayed to the music.

-ed Word Groups Example: Mary was amused by the joke. She told it to a friend.

Mary, *amused* by the joke, told it to a friend.

Combine each pair of sentences below into one sentence by using an –ed word and omitting repeated words. Use a comma or commas to set off the –ed word group from the rest of the sentence.

1. I called an exterminator. I was bothered by roaches.
2. Sam grew silent. He was baffled by what had happened.
3. I tried to stifle my grin. I was amused but was reluctant to show how I felt.
4. **Complex Sentence Structures**

* A complex sentence structure is used when you want to emphasize one idea over another in a sentence.

**Example:** Because I forgot the time, I missed the final exam.

* Use logical dependent words to combine the following pairs of simple sentences into complex sentences. Place a comma after a dependent statement when it starts a sentence.

**Example**: I obtained a credit card. I began spending money recklessly.

When I obtained a credit card, I began spending money recklessly.

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3. Al’s parents want him to be a doctor. Al wants to be a salesman. He impresses people with his charm.
4. The teacher conducted a discussion period. Jack sat at the desk with his head down. He did not want the teacher to call on him. He had not read the assignment.

**Sentence Structure - Patterns**

**Rewrite the following paragraphs by combining sentences...**

**1. The rock star was young. He was dressed in a pink satin shirt and purple jeans. Everyone looked at him. He knew they were looking at him. He smiled shyly. He grasped the microphone. He sang two songs. He wrote these songs himself. His fans were delighted. They greeted him with cheers and screams.**

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**2. A pep meeting was held last Friday night. Memorial Stadium was the scene of the meeting. The meeting was attended by thousands of students. Over a hundred faculty members were there too. It rained Friday night. There was also some sleet. Everyone stayed for two hours.**

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