

# Sentence Skills with Readings

Second Edition



John Langan

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John Langan

Atlantic Cape Community College



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## SENTENCE SKILLS WITH READINGS

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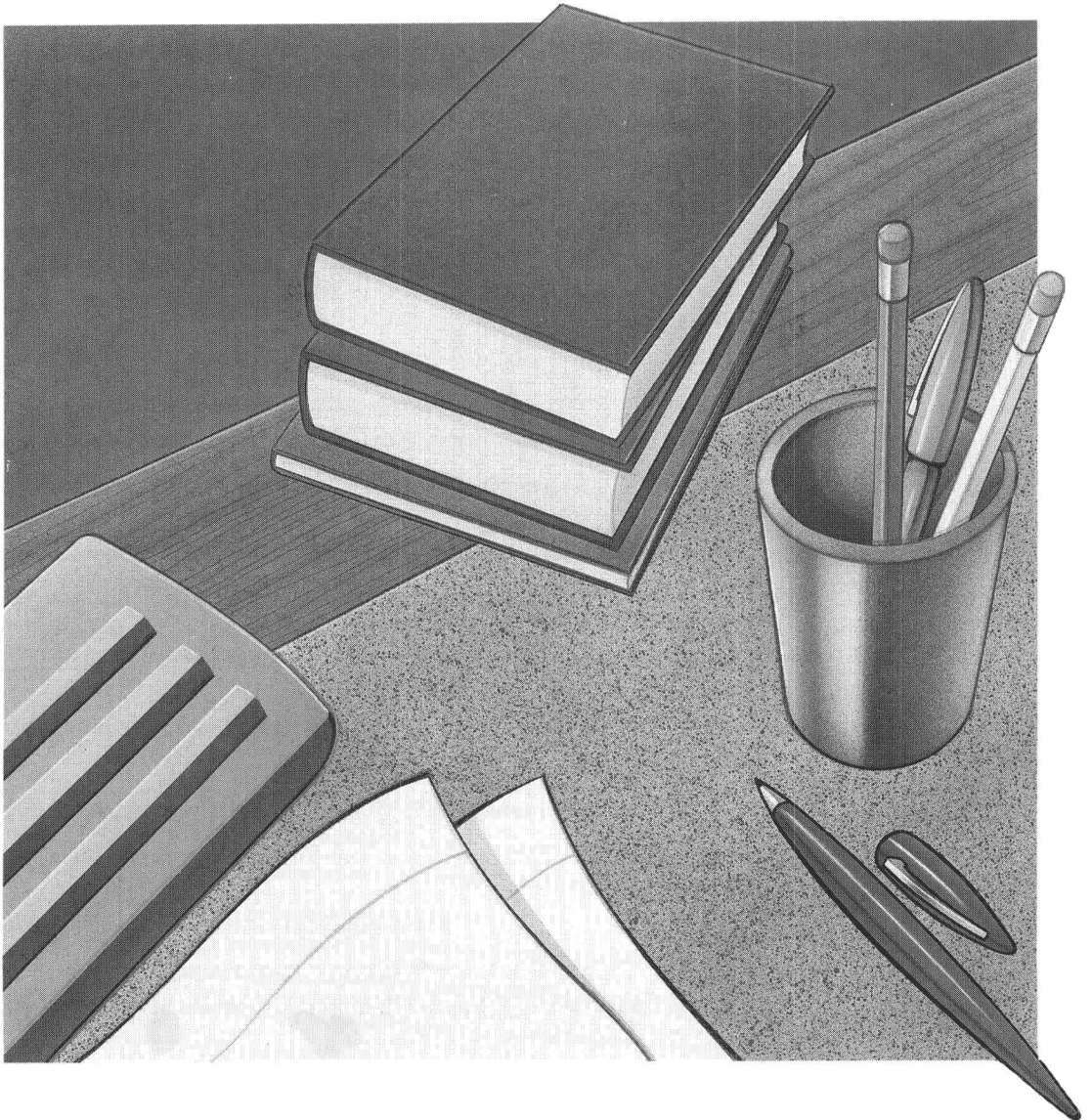
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# Sentence Skills with Readings



# Praise for *Sentence Skills with Readings*

“I am so impressed with this text that I would not only suggest but fight for its adoption.”

**Dorthea D. Burkhart, Davidson County Community College**

“The greatest strengths of the text are the detailed explanations and the numerous exercises. [...] I would rate the text as an ‘A.’”

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“The reading selections are excellent.”

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“The writing assignments are excellent.”

**Glenda Whalon, Cochise College**

“This is truly a good text, and I am so pleased and impressed with the changes.”

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“It is thorough, well organized, well developed, and easy to use for both students and instructors.”

**Theresa Zelenik, Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus**

“The appendices, the section on how to use a computer to compose, the walk-through of a student’s drafts in a “Brief Guide,” and the section on reading really pump this book up. The checklists are very good while the reflective activities add a deeper dimension to the composing process.”

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“The greatest strength of the text remains its easy-to-use style.”

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“Langan’s straightforward goals of effective writing and corollary points have always been and continue to be the strengths of the text.”

**Kris Acquistapace, Crafton Hills College**

“There is enough in here to keep students interested, busy – and learning!”

**Sara Jane Richter, Oklahoma Panhandle State University**

# About the Author

John Langan has taught reading and writing at Atlantic Cape Community College near Atlantic City, New Jersey, for over twenty-five years. The author of a popular series of college textbooks on both subjects, he enjoys the challenge of developing materials that teach skills in an especially clear and lively way. Before teaching, he earned advanced degrees in writing at Rutgers University and in reading at Glassboro State College. He also spent a year writing fiction that, he says, “is now at the back of a drawer waiting to be discovered and acclaimed posthumously.” While in school, he supported himself by working as a truck driver, machinist, battery assembler, hospital attendant, and apple packer. He now lives with his wife, Judith Nadell, near Philadelphia. Among his everyday pleasures are running, working on his Macintosh computer, and watching Philadelphia sports teams on TV. He also loves to read: newspapers at breakfast, magazines at lunch, and a chapter or two of a recent book (“preferably an autobiography”) at night.



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# To the Instructor

## Key Features of the Book

*Sentence Skills with Readings* will help students learn to write effectively. It is an all-in-one text that includes a basic rhetoric and compelling readings and gives full attention to grammar, punctuation, mechanics, and usage.

The book contains ten distinctive features to aid instructors and their students:

- 1 Coverage of basic writing skills is exceptionally thorough.** The book pays special attention to fragments, run-ons, verbs, and other areas where students have serious problems. At the same time, a glance at the table of contents shows that the book treats skills (such as dictionary use and spelling improvement) not found in other texts. In addition, parts of the book are devoted to the basics of effective writing, to practice in editing and proofreading, and to achieving variety in sentences.
- 2 The book has a clear and flexible format.** It is organized in four easy-to-use parts. Part One is a guide to the goals of effective writing followed by a series of activities to help students practice and master those goals. Part Two is a comprehensive treatment of the rules of grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and usage needed for clear writing. Part Three provides a series of mastery, editing, and proofreading tests to reinforce the sentence skills presented in Part Two. Finally, Part Four presents ten high-interest reading selections, followed by assignments that enable students to transfer the skills they have learned to realistic writing situations.

Since parts, sections, and chapters are self-contained, instructors can move easily from, for instance, a rhetorical principle in Part One to a grammar rule in Part Two to a mastery test in Part Three to a writing assignment in Part Four.

- 3 Opening chapters deal with the writer's attitude, writing as a process, and the importance of specific details in writing.** In its opening pages, the book helps students recognize and deal with their attitude about writing—an



important part of learning to write well. In the pages that follow, students are encouraged to see writing as a multistage process that moves from prewriting to proofreading. Later, a series of activities helps students understand the nature of specific details and how to generate and use those details. As writing teachers well know, learning to write concretely is a key step for students to master in becoming effective writers.

- 4 Practice activities are numerous.** Most skills are reinforced by activities, review tests, and mastery tests, as well as tests in the *Instructor's Manual*. For many of the skills in the book, there are over one hundred practice sentences.
- 5 Practice materials are varied and lively.** In many basic writing texts, exercises are monotonous and dry, causing students to lose interest in the skills presented. In *Sentence Skills*, many exercises involve students in various ways. An inductive opening activity allows students to see what they already know about a given skill. Within chapters, students may be asked to underline answers, add words, generate their own sentences, or edit passages. And the lively and engaging practice materials and readings in the book both maintain interest and help students appreciate the value of vigorous details in writing.
- 6 Terminology is kept to a minimum.** In general, rules are explained using words students already know. A clause is a *word group*; a coordinating conjunction is a *joining word*; a nonrestrictive element is an *interrupter*. At the same time, traditional grammatical terms are mentioned briefly for students who learned them in the past and are comfortable seeing them again.
- 7 Self-teaching is encouraged.** Students may check their answers to the introductory activities and the practice activities in Part Two by referring to the answers in Appendix E. In this way, they are given the responsibility for teaching themselves. At the same time, to ensure that the answer key is used as a learning tool only, answers are not given for the review tests in Part Two or for any of the reinforcement tests in Part Three. These answers appear in the *Annotated Instructor's Edition* and the *Instructor's Manual*; they can be copied and handed out to students at the discretion of the instructor.
- 8 Diagnostic and achievement tests are provided.** These tests appear in Appendixes C and D of the book. Each test may be given in two parts, the second of which provides instructors with a particularly detailed picture of a student's skill level.
- 9 High-interest reading selections provide opportunities for writing.** The final part of the book contains ten high-interest readings followed by paragraph and essay assignments. These assignments allow students to explore interesting, relevant topics while practicing the basic writing principles learned in Part One and the sentence skills learned in Parts Two and Three.

## Changes in the Second Edition

Here are the major changes in this new edition of *Sentence Skills with Readings*:

- Collaborative and reflective activities have been added to key chapters of the book. The *collaborative activities* build on the idea that student interaction can increase learning. Group discussion, team writing, and student-generated examples are all used to lend energy to the classroom and strengthen students' mastery of essential writing skills.

The *reflective activities* build on the idea that getting students to think about what they are learning can increase mastery. These activities engage students' higher-order thinking skills and encourage them to be active participants in their own learning.

- Many of the sentence skills in the book are in a simpler, more intuitive sequence. This framework, which places related topics in the same section, seems better suited to the way students learn. For example, the first section, "Sentences," begins with the simple sentence and subjects and verbs; the second chapter treats fragments; the third chapter examines run-ons; and the final chapter presents the four basic kinds of sentences and the main techniques for joining sentences (subordination and coordination).

The second section groups together verbs, pronouns, and matters of agreement, and the third section presents modifiers and parallelism. The final two sections are more traditional: punctuation and mechanics, followed by chapters relating to word use.

- The book includes two new reading selections ("Do It Better!" by Ben Carson, M.D., with Cecil Murphey; and "Papa" by Leo Buscaglia), both highly motivational. There is also one updated reading ("Lost Years, Found Dreams," by Regina Ruiz). Pictures have been added to three readings to increase appeal and interest.
- Another addition to the book is an appendix titled "ESL Pointers," complete with practice activities which address common trouble spots faced by nonnative speakers of English.
- Here are some of the other changes in this revision. There is now a section on the use of computers in the writing process. An appendix on the parts of speech has been added. In select paragraph and essay assignments, a greater emphasis is placed on the importance of prewriting and revising. Practice sentences and passages have been freshened and updated throughout the text, and about 20 percent of the material is new. A section on the importance of regular reading, along with an annotated list of widely popular books, now concludes the introduction to the readings in Part Five. Finally, visual interest has been added to the book in the form of a more student-friendly design.

# Helpful Learning Aids Accompany the Book

## Supplements for Instructors

- An *Annotated Instructor's Edition* (ISBN 0-07-242981-X) consists of the student text complete with answers to all activities and tests.
- The comprehensive *Instructor's Manual and Test Bank* (ISBN 0-07-242980-1) includes (1) a model syllabus along with suggestions for teaching the course, (2) an answer key, and (3) a complete set of additional mastery tests. The manual is 8½ x 11 inches, so that both the answer pages and the added mastery tests can be conveniently reproduced on copying machines.
- An *Online Learning Center* ([www.mhhe.com/langan](http://www.mhhe.com/langan)) offers a host of instructional aids and additional resources for instructors, including a comprehensive computerized test bank, the Instructor's Manual and Test Bank, online resources for writing instructors, and more.
- An *Instructor's CD-ROM* (0-07-242984-4) offers all of the above supplements and M.O.R.E. (McGraw-Hill Online Resources for English, also available online at [www.mhhe.com/english](http://www.mhhe.com/english)) in a convenient offline format.
- *PageOut!* helps instructors create graphically pleasing and professional web pages for their courses, in addition to providing classroom management, collaborative learning, and content management tools. *PageOut!* is **FREE** to adopters of McGraw-Hill textbooks and learning materials. Learn more at [www.mhhe.com/pageout](http://www.mhhe.com/pageout).
- *WebWrite!* is an interactive peer-editing program that allows students to post papers, read comments from their peers and instructor, discuss, and edit *online*. To learn more, visit the online demo at [www.metatext.com/webwrite](http://www.metatext.com/webwrite).

## Supplements for Students

- An *Online Learning Center* ([www.mhhe.com/langan](http://www.mhhe.com/langan)) offers a host of instructional aids and additional resources for students, including self-correcting exercises, writing activities for additional practice, a PowerPoint grammar tutorial, guides to doing research on the Internet and avoiding plagiarism, useful web links, and more.
- *AllWrite! 2.0* is an interactive, browser-based tutorial program that provides an online handbook, comprehensive diagnostic pre-tests and post-tests, plus extensive practice exercises in every area.

You can contact your local McGraw-Hill representative or consult McGraw-Hill's web site at **[www.mhhe.com/english](http://www.mhhe.com/english)** for more information on the supplements that accompany *Sentence Skills with Readings, 2nd Edition*.

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**John Langan**

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