

(9) PP – Power Punctuation Forms

The **Power Punctuation (PP) forms** comprise the ninth set. It consists of two forms for the **Colon**, six forms for the **Semi-Colon**, and four forms with their variations for the **Dash**.

9 PP	Power Punctuation Forms	
9.1	COLON: <small>LIST</small>	formal dramatic pointer (a STOP-sign)
9.2	COLON: <small>EXPL</small>	
9.3	SEMI-COLON _{A;B} Semi-colons are used to separate longer items (such as two related clauses)	equalizer, balancer (a STOP-sign)
9.4	SEMI-COLON _{A;HOWEVER, B}	
9.5	SEMI-COLON _{A;B;C}	
9.6	SEMI-COLON _{OMITTED VERB}	
9.7	SEMI-COLON _{A,andB;C} or _{A; B(and/but)C}	
9.8	SEMI-COLON _{a,b;c,d,e,f} Semi-colons should be used to separate longer items or items with commas in them	
9.9	DASH- <small>BEG LW</small>	afterthought, commentator; amplifier (a yellow light)
9.10 – 9.16	DASH- <small>MID</small>	
9.17 – 9.23	DASH- <small>END</small>	
9.24	DASH- <small>LIST</small>	
[where A,B,C = independent clauses]		

One notices that **three punctuation marks** are included here – *colon, semi-colon, and dash*. That is because the proper use of these three punctuation marks adds **robustness and depth** to the composition: **they cause a direct stop in the sentence, or else a significant pause, and draw attention to the part of the sentence that follows.**

Why are parentheses not included?

The **parenthesis** is often used mid-sentence as a **clarifier**, an **embellishment**, or an **insertion of interesting but only minor significance**. It does not wield the same power as the above three punctuation marks.

Consider the following examples:

1. Johnny (**that new guy in class 10D**) comes from Barbados. [clarifier]
2. “Kurtz had been okay (**mostly okay**) until they saw the road-flares and blue police lightbars flashing in the grim morning light, and beyond it, a huge semi lying on its side like a dead dinosaur.” [clarifier] [Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 705]

3. *Another drunk driver (age nineteen) was ordered to work in the emergency room of a nearby hospital once a week for two years, so that he could see for himself the results of careless driving.* [insert]
4. *Tammy (I used to go to the same school as her) is now a lawyer.* [insert]
5. *“The cheek the kids kissed (“Eeu, scratchy, Daddy!” Misha would say) would now be Mr. Gray’s cheek.”* [embellishment] [Stephen King in Dreamcatcher 539]

The information contained in the parentheses is informative, but is often optional, and can be omitted without loss of meaning in the sentence. It is a quieter, less dramatic type of punctuation mark, and it will be introduced in the next form (10.11 and 10.13).

The Colon

The first two punctuation forms deal with the Colon. The Colon is usually placed near the end of the sentence. **The Colon indicates an abrupt stop in the flow of the sentence.** The Colon

- (1) **is used to introduce a long list;** or
- (2) **follows a statement, giving an explanation of what was just said.**

Power Punctuation Form 9.1: COLON List

Footnote Code: PP-COLON- LIST

Note: This form places a series-type list (S-A,B, and C or S-A,B,C) after the colon. The colon – which we call one of the “stop sign” punctuation marks - draws attention to the list that follows it. *Comparatively, the colon is more formal than the dash when used to start a list.*

Examples:

- (1) This is what I need for my trip to Seoul: *my laptop, my toothbrush, a novel to read, and some extra money just in case of an emergency.*
- (2) He was everything she liked: *tall, dark, and handsome.*
- (3) I greatly enjoy the following activities: *sleeping, watching movies, listening to music, and bouldering.*
- (4) The Galapagos Islands are the home of two very interesting lizards: *the marine iguana and the land iguana.*
- (5) You should always go to morning formations with these three things: *shaved face, pressed uniform, and shined boots.*
- (6) The following people have been selected to represent our university at the Stockholm Peace Olympics: *Kim Su Mi, Kang Je Ho, Pak No Do, Tom Riley.*
- (7) In some places, the following foods are considered delicacies: *snake (any part), pig (intestines), monkey (brains), chicken (gizzard or feet), fish (head).*
- (8) The recipe had just a few ingredients: *eggs, milk, sugar, flour, and cocoa.*

- (9) “Then the sounds of the forest returned: *the first tentative croak of a tree frog, the buzz of one cicada, and then the full chorus.*” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*)
- (10) “There was a little recess here, hardly larger than a closet, and filled with machinery: *humming pumps and big filters and pipes.*” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*)
- (11) “We draw your attention to these special advantages: *portability, simplicity, dependability.*” (Arthur Hoole in *The Fundamentals of Clear Writing*)
- (12) “The commission found they had to deal with three main problems: *disease, famine, and illiteracy.*” Arthur Hoole in *The Fundamentals of Clear Writing*)
- (13) “There was every kind of news in the paper: *accidents, shipwrecks, sports, and politics.*” (James Joyce in *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*)
- (14) “There were toys on the floor: *a rolling yellow ball, a doll, a plastic rattle.*” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*)
- (15) “Classically the ability to invent and execute plans was believed to be limited to only three species: *chimpanzees, gorillas, and human beings.*” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*)

Power Punctuation Form 9.2: COLON Explanation

Footnote Code: PP-COLON-EXPL

Note: This form calls for a statement, a colon, and then an explanation of the statement. The explanation can be a word, phrase, or clause.

[statement] : [explanation of statement]

There are five sub-forms within this form.

- (1) The inclusion of the word ‘one’, ‘one thing’, or ‘two...’ (or another number) in the first statement is a tip to the number of explanatory items that follow the colon in the second statement;
- (2) An adjective or participle placed before the noun which is directly before the colon in the first statement. The explanation is simply explaining the adjective or the participle before the noun before the colon.
- (3) The explanation explains a predicate adjective (distant adjectival descriptor) that is in the first statement.
- (4) A whole statement followed by the explanation of the whole statement or a keyword in the first statement. The explanation usually does not refer to any one part of the statement. This form is difficult.
- (5) This sub-form shows how the colon is a dramatic pointer meant to highlight the last statement. The concluding statement is not necessarily an explanation of the first part of the sentence, but is intimately connected to it in its meaning.

Examples:

(1) (follow-up to a) numeric precursor

- (1) **One thing** I saw plainly: *I was no longer able to jump up the stair two at a time, or jog ten times around the field and not feel tired.*
- (2) I went to Seoul for **one reason**: *to buy a computer.*
- (3) There is only **one thing** that matters in life: *the extent to which your life reflects good qualities and virtues.*

- (4) My wife had **two things** to accomplish: *one was shopping, and the other was mailing a letter.*
- (5) "...Geologists have considered every concentric layer forming the Earth except **one: the layer of human thought.**" (Tielhard de Chardin quoted in Annie Dillard's *For the Time Being*)
- (6) "**One thing's** for sure: If we keep doing what we're doing, we're going to keep getting what we're getting." (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 13)
- (7) "**One** religious **bumper sticker** captured this precept: '*Begin Your Day with Nutrition: Read the Bible.*'" (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 93) [variation with 1 + variation of 4]

(2) (explanation of) adjective or participle before noun

- (8) It was **early** morning: only the crickets, the cicadas, and a few birds were awake.
- (9) He had a **terrible** day: everything he did resulted in disaster.
- (10) Spring on the east coast is for me a **miserable** season: the pollen count is far too high.
- (11) It was a **foggy** day: the mountains, the houses, the fields were all shrouded in mist.
- (12) It was a **smoggy** day: the city was wrapped in a dense cloud of dirty air and polluted fog.
- (13) He unknowingly bought a **haunted** house: full of eerie noises and strange apparitions.
- (14) "Mr. Gray has discovered another **unlovely** human emotion: *panic.*" (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 823)
- (15) "An **emotional** episode leaves a corresponding lingering mood: a low key continual flow of feeling throughout the group."
[Daniel Coleman in *Primal Leadership* 12]
- (16) September 11, 2001 was a **devastating** day of terror in American history: thousands of lives were lost, and symbolic landmarks desecrated.

(3) (explanation of) distant descriptor

- (17) The laundry was still **wet**: *it had rained all day.*
- (18) The cake is **flat**: *I forgot to add baking powder.*
- (19) The movie was **boring**: all they did was hit and shoot each other.

(4) (explanation of) whole statement

- (20) Everybody knew why he was smiling: *he had won the blockbuster lottery.*
- (21) "Arnold was surprised to see that it was now blinking yellow: AUX PWR LOW." (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*, p.299)
- (22) I like to wear sandals: *they keep my feet nice and cool.*
- (23) The end of the visit came suddenly: *they had been in a different timeframe throughout their entire visit together.*
- (24) The Empire State Building is a popular spot for proposals and weddings: *there is a wedding ceremony each year on St. Valentine's Day.*
- (25) "Finally, to those nations who would make themselves our adversary, we offer not a pledge but a request: *that both sides begin anew the quest for peace, before the dark powers of*

- destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction.”* (John F. Kennedy in *Inaugural Speech*)
- (26) “An entire industry, called fashion, has grown up around the business of convincing women that they need to remake themselves in someone else’s image: *makeup and clothes and other products are presented not as alterations but as improvements.”* (Holly Brubach in *Heroine Worship: the Age of the Female Icon* in *The Contemporary Reader* by Goshgarian 273)

(5) true dramatic pointer

- (27) “The Eskimos had fifty-two names for snow because snow was important to them: there ought to be as many for love.” (Margaret Atwood in M.Scott Peck’s *Abounding Grace* 302)

variation

- (28) ‘There was a picture of the earth on the first page of his geography: *a big ball in the middle of clouds.*” (James Joyce in *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*) [combines dramatic pointer type (5) drawing attention to the last statement, plus type (4) which explains the key word *earth* in the first statement]

Semi-Colon

Power Punctuation Form 9.3:

SEMI-COLON Two independent clauses iCL; iCL

Footnote Code: PP-SC iCL; iCL

Note: The semi-colon joins two sentences in three ways:

- (1) the two sentences are closely connected or associated in meaning or in content to one another;
- (2) the two sentences are directly opposed or contrasted in their meaning;
- (3) the second sentence is an understandably immediate consequence of the first.

Examples:

(1) association

- (1) I just bought a car today; it has a standard gearshift.
- (2) I like to wear the color orange; it’s very bright and beautiful.
- (3) Writing is a skill; it has to be learned.
- (4) “Wordsworth’s ‘trailing clouds of glory’ refers to newborns; they trail clouds of glory as they come. (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being*)
- (5) “Two more Tican workman had arrived at the lodge; they seemed to know it was safe here.” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*, p.309)
- (6) “It was afternoon; the sun was falling.” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*, p.369)
- (7) The wind is growing stronger; a hurricane must be approaching.

- (8) “Character is what we are; competence is what we can do.”
(Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 98)
- (9) The aroma filled the air; dinner must be ready.
- (10) The computer processor is slow; it must be time to upgrade.
- (11) My ballpen was a gift; it was given to me when I retired.

(2) contrast

- (12) Some people dream of being something; others stay awake and are. (Waddell *The Art of Styling Sentences* 1983)
- (13) Man proposes; God disposes.
- (14) “We’re not in control; *principles* are.” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 10)
- (15) In day time, the Beijing Financial Street beats with the pulse of a vibrant financial economy; at night, it dances with the breath of fashionable life.
- (16) “When structures and systems are aligned, they facilitate empowerment; when they aren’t, they work against it.” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 100)
- (17) In Canada, a couple may look forward to owning a ground-level detached home or townhouse; in South Korea, many newlyweds look forward to having an apartment in a huge high-rise building.

(3) consequence

- (18) It stopped raining; I went outside.
- (19) The weather is too dry; my cello cracked.
- (20) It snowed today; I went outside to make a snowman.
- (21) There was an accident on the highway; we got there late.
- (22) “The animal screamed and snapped; Grant ducked his head away from the jaws and pushed back, as the giant wings beat around his body.” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*, p.280)
- (23) The shirt was very pretty; I decided to buy it for Mother’s Day.
- (24) Meowing loudly, the cat kept scratching at the pantry door; I eventually put him outside for the rest of the night. (Vernisha Mitchell)

Advanced: a semi-colon before *and* or *but*

Note: Normally you don’t put a semi-colon before a coordinating conjunction, but it is done more frequently than most people realize, especially by professional writers. You place a semi-colon rather than a comma to separate two or more independent clauses of a compound sentence when you wish the reader to make a complete stop, rather than proceed with only a pause.

- (25) “Some human happiness is a land-locked lake; **but** the Grancy’s was an open sea, stretching a buoyant and illimitable surface to the voyaging interests of life.” (Edith Wharton in *The Moving Finger*)



(26) “Along the tree-lined streets, pretty with shuttered consulates and overgrown old villas, there was still a furious commotion of *cyclos*¹, bicycles, and pedestrians, so crowded that a car could hardly pass; **and** along the age-old, sloping streets, a dizzying seethe of shops and stalls. (Pico Iyer describing Hue, Vietnam in *Falling Off the Map*)

[Note: omitted verb – see form 9.6 - in second clause]

- (27) “In its freedom from a heavy-booted approach to life, Taoism is at one with the rest of China; **but** it is also, as we have seen, free of the Confucian tendency toward rigidity and formalism.” (Huston Smith in *The World’s Religions* 217)
- (28) “All the time they seemed to be skating on fathomless depths of air, so blue the ice had become; and so glassy smooth was it that they sped quicker and quicker to the city with the white gulls circling about them, and cutting in the air with their wings the very same sweeps that they cut on the ice with their skates.” (Virginia Woolf in *Orlando* 53)
- (29) “And while I was grateful for being part of what we all considered the greater destiny and the mandate of our people, I had hoped, too, that my preparation and training would be tested and confirmed by live experiences, however difficult and horrible; **and** more *specifically*, that my truest mettle would show itself in the crucible of the battlefield, and so prove to anyone who might suspect otherwise the worthiness of raising me away from the lowly quarters of my kin and reveal the essential, inner spirit that is within us all.” (Chang-Rae Lee in *A Gestured Life* 120)

¹ A Vietnamese tricycle pedicab (taxi) on which the customer or traveler sits in front of the driver.

Power Punctuation Form 9.4: SEMI-COLON iCL;HOWEVER, iCL**Footnote Code:** PP-SCHOWEVER**Note:** There are eighteen most frequently used **conjunctive adverbs** that are used in this form. The pattern is:*iCL; [conjunctive adverb], iCL* (where iCL = independent clause)

Conjunctive adverbs are like bridge words which join independent clauses into immediate connection with one another. They facilitate flow and transition in thought. The conjunctive adverbs are **marker signals** which have minor but not major constitutive meaning.

Common Conjunctive Adverbs			
1 Consequence	consequently	therefore	as a result
	then	hence	
2 Adding Information	furthermore	moreover	in addition
3 Emphasis	in fact	indeed	then
4 Overcoming of Obstacles or Indicating Exception or Unusual Alternative²	nevertheless	however	rather
	nonetheless		
5 Specifying or Exemplifying	namely	specifically	in particular

Examples:**Consequence**

- (1) I can still see the streaks under the fresh black paint; consequently, we will have to give the car another coat of paint.
- (2) Sam never took time to study; consequently, he failed the course.
- (3) The Communications Fair will take place in four weeks; therefore, preparations for it are being made now.
- (4) Chinese New Year is in twenty-four days; therefore, I must finish my shopping soon.
- (5) The turkey will be frozen; therefore, we must thaw it out the night before.
- (6) Get settled first; then, we will assess your schedule.
- (7) His grandmother died; as a result, he didn't attend Wednesday's class.
- (8) The flowers are hand-pruned, hand-watered, hand-picked, and hand-delivered; hence, the price is a bit more than the floral chain shops.

Adding Information

- (9) Geno loves gospel music; furthermore, he sings with a choir in Daegu.
- (10) They have not seen that film; moreover, they have not been to the cinema for almost a year.
- (11) She's a vegetarian; in addition, she is a running enthusiast and an advocate of all aspects of fitness and hygiene.

² To demonstrate accomplishment, achievement, or completion of a task despite obstacles, difficulties, or bad conditions.

Emphasis

- (12) An *arthroscope* helps a doctor examine the inside of an injured knee; *in fact*, the use of this instrument can prevent unnecessary surgery.
- (13) Sruti is hilarious; *in fact*, he could be a professional comedian.
- (14) He was happy to get the call this time for the job as the replacement drummer; *indeed*, it looks like Willy (the Woz) might not be returning to the job he left behind as a teacher at Vincent Massey Collegiate.

Overcoming Obstacles

- (15) The traffic was very heavy; *however*, we did make it to the party on time.
- (16) The car was low on fuel; *however*, I made it to work.
- (17) All the kids were tired from the Christmas party at school and seemed as though they were ready for a nap; *nevertheless*, the teachers still let the children party until it was time to go home.
- (18) My mom was tired from work; *nevertheless*, she helped me with my homework.
- (19) The team suffered a great defeat; *nevertheless*, they showed great sportsmanship.

Exception or Unusual Alternative

- (20) The senior group is quite small; *however*, we are a close-knit group.
- (21) I could use this free time to study; *however*, my favorite show *Farscape* is on.
- (22) The little girl loved to play in the grass; *however*, she had severe allergies, and was forced to play inside.
- (23) Susan argued with her husband; *however*, she still loved him.
- (24) The old bike was ten years old; *nonetheless*, it worked well and hardly ever had a problem.

Specifying or Exemplifying

- (25) The Advanced Film Processing System has advantages; *namely*, you get a contact sheet of showing all pictures, the negatives are stored safely in the canister, and there are three formats of picture size.
- (26) A foreigner should always try to learn the customs of the host nation; *in particular*, the visitor should become familiar with the greeting and eating protocol, acceptable discussion topics, and family and interpersonal customs.
- (27) After joining the club, you will have more choices; *specifically*, the format, the frequency, and the content of our free monthly news digest.

Sometimes – when the sentence before the semi-colon and the sentence after the conjunctive adverb are long – the semi-colon is *not* used, and two sentences are made. In such cases, the conjunctive adverb often starts off or is near the beginning of the second sentence.³

³ Examples:

(1) *Food is the best source for any nutrient. **However**, it is difficult to eat adequate amounts of a variety of foods daily, especially if you are on a diet.*

Power Punctuation Form 9.5:

SEMI-COLON Three Independent Clauses iCL; iCL; iCL

Footnote Code: PP-SC iCL; iCL; iCL**Note:** This form is an extension of PP 9.3.**Examples:**

- (1) The song was touching; it brought back memories; I had to cry.
- (2) Debbie is good at spiking; Sung Min is good at setting; Gyeong Ae is good at serving the ball over the net.
- (3) Paula is unique; Kissa is exciting; Vanta is dull.
- (4) Keiko wants to go to California; Bahiyyih wants to go to Geneva; I just want to go Rota.
- (5) Nam plays guitar; Snow sings; Eddy plays bass; Suji plays drums.
- (6) Melissa is good at English; Josephine is good at algebra; Pam is good at history.
- (7) Bees eat nectar; birds eat seeds; fish eat plankton and worms.
- (8) Molly grew up to be a singer; Desmond plays in a band; Derrick sings in a blues group.
- (9) He fought against himself; he forced himself to excel; he looked within on a regular basis.
- (10) In Canada, you get gasoline at a gas station; in Britain, they call it a petrol station; in Korea, they call it an oil bank.
- (11) Jenny rides a recumbent bike; Sara powers a racing bike; Ian commutes on an electric scooter.
- (12) “I wish we had five or six; I would never go to bed; I should never get tired lying on the moss-bank and looking up at them.” (Mark Twain in *Eve’s Diary*) [Note: Eve is talking about the moon.]
- (13) “All was dark; all was doubt; all was confusion.” (Virginia Woolf in *Orlando* 226)
- (14) “Millions of dollars awaited Knievel if he landed safely; television rights fees alone guaranteed \$6 million (with expectations of earning twice that much from closed-circuit viewing sales); royalties from Evel Knievel toy cycles and Snake River Canyon jump apparel promised even more.” (Bruce Schulman in *The Seventies* 104 – describing Evel Knievel’s farewell stint – a jump across Idaho’s Snake River canyon aboard his sky cycle)

Variation

- (15) It has no hips; it tapers like a carrot; when it stands, it spreads itself like a derrick; so I think it is a reptile, though it may be architecture.” (Mark Twain in *Eve’s Diary*) [four independent clauses – Eve is describing her first impressions of Adam]

Variation – use of comma instead of semi-colon**Note:** Technically, in some cases, when the clauses are each very short, commas are used by established writers instead of semi-colons.

- (16) We came, we saw, we conquered.

(2) *Stopping smoking is a difficult task to do. It can, **however**, be done with perseverance and sheer willpower.*

Advanced

- (17) “Of the more than 21 million who live in modern Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, fully 80 per cent are either pure Indian in their ancestry or of mixed Indian, and Spanish stock; 10 to 15 per cent are officially described as white, chiefly Spanish in inheritance; a few thousand are Negro, mulatto, Chinese, and Japanese.” (Quote from p.573 by Herring in *A History of Latin America*)

Power Punctuation Form 9.6: SEMI-COLON Omitted Verb**Footnote Code: PP-SC-OV**

Note: The main verb of the second independent clause is omitted. A comma is placed after the subject in the second independent clause.

Examples:

- (1) Robert ordered melted tuna for lunch; Lee, shrimp and salad.
- (2) My dog is a sweetheart; my cat, a pest.
- (3) One of Joanne’s gifts was a watch; the other, a ring.
- (4) The Chinese government is communist; the Canadian government, democratic.
- (5) One day there’s rain; the next, fog.
- (6) John usually has coffee at McDonalds; Ron, at Burger King.
- (7) My shirt is too small; my shoes, too big.
- (8) I wanted salad; Lisa, shrimp.
- (9) This mug is blue; the other, green.
- (10) Many of the families were wealthy; others, poor.
- (11) Johnny plays slide guitar; Frank, blues harmonica.
- (12) Betty makes clothes; Barb, pottery.
- (13) Some plants like lots of sunshine; others, shade.

Variation

Sometimes, the second comma is omitted, and the semi-colon is replaced by a comma. This is done when the two independent clauses are short.

- (14) “His manner was restrained and dignified, his voice soft and grave.” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*, p.369)
- (15) The road became slippery, the path muddy.” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*, p.294)

Power Punctuation Form 9.7:

SEMI-COLON Variation with three clauses

iCL, and iCL; iCL or iCL; iCL (and/but) iCL

Footnote Code: PP-SC-var

Note: Three clauses are joined. Two of them contain a coordinate conjunction preceded by a comma to form the longer part of the sentence. The third clause is separated from the other two by a semi-colon.

Examples:**ICL and/but iCL**

- (1) You can sing, and I can dance; Tom plays flamenco guitar.

- (2) Sam pushed the car **and** Sally steered; they were out of gas and stuck in traffic.
- (3) The phone rang **and** he was quick to answer it; he was waiting for her to call.
- (4) We boarded the plane at 6 pm, **but** our flight was delayed; we arrived at our destination an hour late.

ICL; iCL and/but/yet iCL

- (5) Tomorrow is Saturday night; I would like to go out with my friends, **but** I should stay home with my family.
- (6) He was gorgeous; he had a beautiful car, **but** his personality was horrible.
- (7) I baked a cake; I followed all the directions, **yet** it tasted awful.
- (8) “The name of the coachman was John Manley; he had a wife and one little child, **and** they lived in the coachman’s cottage, very near the stables.” (Anna Sewell in *Black Beauty*)
- (9) “Some of these [icebergs] were as broad as a bowling green and as high as a house; others no bigger than a man’s hat, **but** most fantastically twisted.” (Virginia Woolf in *Orlando* 62)

Optional comma for short clauses

If the pair of clauses that are put together with the coordinating conjunction are short, it may be best for pacing to omit the comma.

- (10) The wind blew[,] **and** the rain poured; an ominous funnel-shaped cloud loomed at the horizon.

Advanced

- (11) “To the oak tree he tied it and as he lay there, gradually the flutter in and about him stilled itself; the little leaves hung; the deer stopped; the pale summer clouds stayed; his limbs grew heavy on the ground; **and** he lay so still that by degrees the deer stepped nearer and the rooks wheeled round him and the swallows dipped and circled and the dragon-flies shot past, as if all the fertility and amorous activity of a summer’s evening were woven web-like about his body.” (Virginia Woolf in *Orlando* 19)

Power Punctuation Form 9.8:

SEMI-COLON Longer Items Containing Commas or Items in a Series

Note: This is the one and only instance in which the semi-colon is not used to separate independent clauses. So, whenever you use a semi-colon, if that semi-colon is not separating independent clauses, then it must be an example of this form below, or it is wrong, so pay attention to this form.

The semi-colon in this form is used for two purposes: (1) to separate longer items in a series to differentiate the items from one another; (2) to separate series items (long or short) which contain one or more commas within one or more items of the series, again to clearly differentiate the items from one another.

Footnote Code: PP-SC LongerItems

ICL; iCL; iCL	, ; , ; ,	(where iCL is an independent clause)
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Examples:**Type 1: Longer Items in a Series where no item contains a comma**

- (1) Peace involves the greater involvement of women in all levels of decision-making in all areas of society; a massive campaign to eradicate illiteracy and to improve education for all; a systematic and methodical sharing and distribution of all of the planet's fossil and renewable resources; the adoption of a universal script and language which will become a universal auxiliary language spoken and understood by all.
- (2) "This exercise encapsulates my philosophy of education, which is based on the word *respect*: respect between student and teacher; respect for our cultural heritage; and respect for our natural neighbors." (Robert Bateman, Canadian wildlife artist and environmentalist, in *Thinking Like a Mountain*)

Type 2: Longer Items in a Series where one or more items contain one or more commas

- (3) This *Sol/Nal* [Korean New Year] I gave gifts to each member in my family: to my brother, an organizer; to my mother, a book she really wanted to read; to my father, a handkerchief.
- (4) "There is confrontation, turmoil, aggression, in the often militaristic language of romantic love: Archers shoot fatal arrows or unerring shafts; the male enemy presses, pursues, and conquers; women surrender after being besieged by amorous assaults." (Francine du Plessix Gray in *On Friendship* in *The Riverside Reader* ed J. Trimmer p.345)
- (5) "Thus had been written, before he was turned twenty-five, some forty-seven plays, histories, romances, poems; some in prose, some in verse; some in French, some in Italian; all romantic, and all long." (Virginia Woolf in *Orlando* 77)
- (6) "Yet, within its limited space, Costa Rica had a remarkable diversity of biological habitats: seacoasts on both the Atlantic and the Pacific; four separate mountain ranges, including twelve-thousand-foot peaks and active volcanoes; rainforests, cloud forests, temperate zones, swampy marshes, and arid deserts." (Michael Crichton in *Jurassic Park* p.21)
- (7) "With a land mass larger than the continental United States; a unique culture that is part European, African, and indigenous; and an economy expanding at an extraordinary rate, Brazil is one of the most important – yet one on the least understood – nations in the world." (Quote from the advertising blurb on the inside cover of a history of Brazil called *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change* by Thomas E. Skidmore published by Oxford University Press in 1999 in London and New York)
- (8) "Chile is a land of dramatic variety, and contrast: in its geography, with swift passage from sea to towering mountains, from dense forests to arid desert; in its public life, where the usual orderliness of the people is sometimes marred by a violence characteristic of their Araucanian forbears; in its politics, where a fierce appetite for democracy battles Spanish

feudalism; and in its cultural life, where the intellectual prowess of a few contrasts vividly with the ignorance of the many.” (Quote from p. 639 of the book by Herring about Latin America)

- (9) “Theoretically, we welcomed the poor of the world to our democratic shores, the symbol being a statue⁴ donated by France, with an inscription on its base written by a Sephardic Jewess named Emma Lazarus. Practically, however, we kept the Negro in his place; the Indian on his reservations (which we steadily shrank); the Mexican in his alley; the Jew, except for a minority, in the ghetto; and the Slav, so far as we could, under the tyranny of the czar by trying to keep him away through literacy tests and, eventually, national quota systems.” (Please note: the first sentence is introductory, while the second one exemplifies the form. Quote from p. x of *The Age of Energy* by Howard Mumford Jones)

- (10) “Second, we have all the problems of a major zoo – care of the animals; health and welfare; feeding and cleanliness; protection from insects, pests, allergies, and illnesses; maintenance of barriers; and all the rest.” (M. Crichton in *Jurassic Park*, p.139)

In a small town next to where I live, there is a Presbyterian Church with a sign that reads: "Come join us for Sun. worship!"

<http://www.sebourn.com/stupid/stpdsqn.html>

a perfect example of an inappropriate use of punctuation marks that ends up being rather humorous

There are some punctuations that are more interesting and some that are not.

-Gertrude Stein

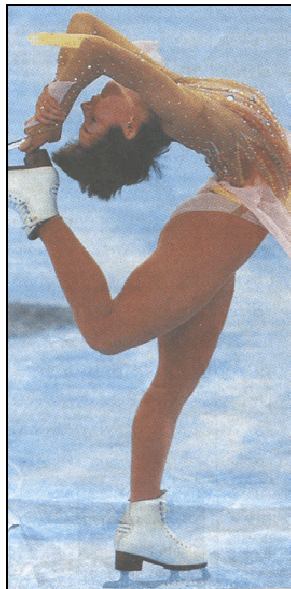


Figure 1: Skills require practice to reach perfection

⁴ Statue of Liberty.

The Dash

A **Dash** is used to highlight one or several items as:

- (1) an elaboration and amplification;
- (2) an afterthought;
- (3) a short explanation;
- (4) a commentary;
- (5) a break in time;
- (6) a break in continuity of expression (reminiscent and evocative of the flow, rhythms, and feel of spoken speech or language)

The Dash is what its name implies: it is a dashing punctuation mark, which is to say that it jumps out at us, shows itself off. We might call the dash, the *dashing one* to remember that it is a bit of a **show-off**, a way to stand out from the crowd.


What is placed between the dash is made outstanding: it stands out from the common crowd and ordinary run of the sentence. The dash has something a little daring or eccentric or unusual about it. All of the above explanations are meant to capture the flavor and feel of the dash.

Mini-Directory of PP Dash Forms				
B		9.9	PP Dash Beginning List Wrap-Up	
M	word	9.10	PP Dash Middle <i>word</i>	
	phrase/string	9.11	PP Dash Middle <i>prepositional phrase</i>	
		9.12	PP Dash Middle <i>verbal phrase</i>	
		9.13	PP Dash Middle <i>noun string</i>	Normal
				Appositive
				Absolute
	9.14	PP Dash Middle <i>adverb string</i>		
9.15	PP Dash Middle <i>adjective string</i>			
clause	9.16-9.18	PP Dash Middle <i>clause</i>		
E	word	9.19	PP Dash End <i>word</i>	
	phrase/string	9.20	PP Dash End <i>prepositional phrase</i>	
		9.21	PP Dash End <i>verbal phrase</i>	
		9.22	PP Dash End <i>noun string</i>	
		9.23	PP Dash End <i>adverb string</i>	
		9.24	PP Dash End <i>adjective string</i>	
	clause	9.25-9.27	PP Dash End <i>clause</i>	
		9.28	PP Dash End List	

Power Punctuation Form 9.9: DASH Beginning List Wrap-up**Footnote Code:** PP-DASH-B-LW

Note: It is used after a *short or medium-sized list* or series. What follows the dash is one or more summarizing words which sum up the list and usually function as the subject of the sentence. A generalizing comment usually follows the summarizing words.

Examples:

- (1) *Ginous, Larry, Aldo* – **all three** were on last year's slow pitch team.
 - (2) *Dispatches, load plates*  and *licenses* – **all** are needed to drive a humvee.
 - (3) *Brushes, a palette knife, a palette board, tubes of paint, canvas* – **these** are the things that you need to get started in painting.
 - (4) *'The melancholy of the moor, the death of the unfortunate pony, the weird sound which had been associated with the grim legend of the Baskervilles* – **all these things** tinged my thoughts with sadness." (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* p. 78)
 - (5) *Claudius, Polonius, Gertrude, Ophelia* – **all** are characters in Shakespeare's tragedy *Hamlet*.
 - (6) *Research papers, vocabulary, sentence structure* – **these** are the things I most despise in Composition class.
 - (7) *San Diego, San Francisco, Oceanside, Oakland* – **these** are cities in California that contain friends who are dear to me.
 - (8) *Respectability, neatness, accuracy* – **all** are required to be a good secretary.
 - (9) *Jordan, Pippen, and Rodman* – **all** were part of the Bull's last three championships.
 - (10) *Parent-teacher conferences, my children's performances, charity fund raisers* – **these** are things that I always try to attend at my children's school.
 - (11) *Athleticism and strength, explosiveness and leverage* – **all** are essential in being excellent linemen⁵ in the Canadian Football League.
-

Power Punctuation Form 9.10-9.15: DASH Middle**Footnote Code:** PP- DASH-M**Note:**

The next section is an attempt to differentiate types of added expressions or statements placed between two dashes.

To design a classification scheme that will accommodate all instances and examples comfortably so that students can imitate, is in itself a formidable if not impossible task; words and phrases sometimes seem to want to

⁵ A football player who plays on the offensive or defensive team in the front line position opposite the other team's linemen.

purposefully avoid the restraints of grammar or to elude recognition for ease of imitation. Some people can argue that some of the examples below are in the wrong category, or that a particular word has been ignored, but there is little value in spending time arguing over the matter.

When students learn to write the following interrupting expressions and statements, it is helpful for them to provide a classification scheme of the various types of interrupting expressions or statements to enable them to more easily see and learn to write all the possibilities for such interrupting added expressions or statements. However, when students are asked to write short or long essays, they should not be required to specifically identify the particular sub-form of the main form. They should simply write added expression or statement or added interrupter to cover and designate all the many examples which follow here and which we explain in detail.

Although we stress the different types or sub-forms of this form, and we are now dealing with somewhat complex types or sub-forms, it will help students to see and imitate more clearly the possibilities of this form. **We will learn how to notice that certain parts of the sentence cluster and belong together, just as certain plants look well together in a section of a garden, or certain colors offset each other beautifully in a painting.** The reader will hopefully begin to develop some feeling for fitness of the examples that follow, and their aid to student writing.

LEVEL		ADDITION	PLACEMENT IN SENTENCE	
			MIDDLE	END
I	Word	Word	9.10	9.19
II	Phrase /String	Prepositional Phrase	9.11	9.20
		Verbal Phrase	9.12	9.21
		Noun/Appositive String	9.13	9.22
		Adverb String	9.14	9.23
		Adjective String	9.15	9.24
III	Clause	Subordinate Adverb Clause	9.16	9.25
		Subordinate Reference/Noun Clause	9.17	9.26
		Independent Clause	9.18	9.27
		List or Series After A Dash		9.28

(1) ADDITION: WORD		
TYPE	FORMAT	
word	one word (noun, adjective, adverb)	
(2) ADDITION: PHRASE		
<p>A phrase consists of a header (preposition or verbal) followed in most cases by an object. Prepositions must have an object. Verbals often require objects. We say that there is a <i>high degree of governing or binding</i> between the header and tailgate in a phrase.</p>		
TYPE	HEADER	TAILGATE
prepositional phrase	preposition	nouns, pronouns, or verbals which are used as objects of the preposition; plus any descriptors that belong to the nouns, pronouns, or verbals; plus any additional words or phrases attached to the initial phrase to form an extended phrase
verbal phrase	verbal	accompanying descriptors of the verbal and/or the object of the verbal with its descriptors, plus any other attachments that are added subsequently to the initial verbal phrase to form an extended phrase .
ADDITION: STRING		
<p>A string is any long combination of words that is set apart from the sentence with punctuation mark(s) and is not a phrase or clause. We could not invent strings and call the following phrases, but we introduce the word string to differentiate those groups of words that usually have mandatory binding (requiring objects), and those that have less binding. There are three types of strings: noun/appositive, adjective, and adverb.</p>		
TYPE	HEADER	TAILGATE
noun /appositive string	noun or appositive with or without allowable front descriptors	<input type="checkbox"/> prepositional or verbal phrase; <input type="checkbox"/> lone participle; <input type="checkbox"/> reference clause; <input type="checkbox"/> coordinate conjunction + noun (with/without front descriptors) (conjunctive noun string); <input type="checkbox"/> more nouns (in series); <input type="checkbox"/> nouns in a correlative [header may be first part of correlative]; <input type="checkbox"/> a noun with not too many adjectives before it; <input type="checkbox"/> any of the above plus any extended attachments that follow
adjective string	adjective	<input type="checkbox"/> a prepositional phrase; <input type="checkbox"/> adjective + [conjunction or comma] + adjective; <input type="checkbox"/> adjective [+adjective]+ noun; <input type="checkbox"/> any of the above plus any extended attachments that follow
adverb string	1-word adverb	<input type="checkbox"/> a prepositional phrase; <input type="checkbox"/> a verbal phrase; <input type="checkbox"/> one or more adjectives; <input type="checkbox"/> one or more nouns with or without attachments.; <input type="checkbox"/> any of the above plus any extended attachments that follow

(3) ADDITION: CLAUSE		
clause: adverb	adverbial conjunction	the rest of the adverbial clause
clause: reference	reference conjunction	the rest of the reference clause
clause: independent	nothing special	the rest of the independent clause

Nine Types of Additions Placed at the Middle the Sentence and Set Off by Dashes on Both Sides

We will now look at various types of additions that can be set between dashes or after a dash and placed at the middle or the end of a sentence..

ADDITIONS PLACED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SENTENCE AND SET OFF BY DASHES ON BOTH SIDES			
LEVEL		TYPES OF ADDITIONS	PLACEMENT IN SENTENCE
			MIDDLE
I	Word	Word	9.10
II	Phrase /String	1 Prepositional Phrase	9.11
		2 Verbal Phrase	9.12
		3 Noun/Appositive String	9.13
		4 Adverb String	9.14
		5 Adjective String	9.15
III	Clause	Subordinate Adverb Clause	9.16
		Subordinate Reference/Noun Clause	9.17
		Independent Clause	9.18

Interrupting Addition: Word

Our first interrupter is a single word. On occasion, it can be a couple of words when they form a semantically unbreakable unshakeable unit, as in a movie or book title or a numerical expression.

(1) WORD	
TYPE	FORMAT
word	one word (noun, adjective, adverb)

Examples:

9.10 PP Dash M word PP-Dash-M-word

- (1) The football club needed one thing above all else – **teamwork** – to win the final championship.
- (2) One thing – **friendship** – was missing in their relationship.
- (3) “These things were facts – **truth** – but they had no savor.”
(Stephen King in *Dreamcatchers* 764)
- (4) My favorite movie – “**Mosquito Coast**” – is an action drama about a disenchanting inventor who moves to the tropics with his family.
[It makes no sense to split up a title.]
- (5) “Wisdom is a marriage – **a synergy** – of heart and mind.” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 71)

adjective

- (6) “We may find it convenient to live with the illusion that circumstances or other people are responsible for the quality of our lives, but the reality is that we are responsible – **response-able** – for our choices.” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 68)
- (7) “Every day 1.5 million people walk through Times Square in New York; every day, almost as many people – **1.5 million** – board U.S. passenger planes.” (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being* 75)

adverb

- (8) “While you can be efficient with things, you can’t be efficient – **effectively** – with people.” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 11)
 - (9) “There’d be a time to shut off Boston’s water supply – **theoretically** – but could Henry convince anyone to take such an enormous, disruptive step?” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatchers* 757)
-

Interrupting Addition: Phrase

The following interrupters consist of multi-word units that have a header and tailgate. The header is the word located at the front of the group or cluster of words for which we provide below a long or somewhat complicated, but we hope, consistent grammatical explanation. Unfortunately, you may find the grammatical explanation somewhat difficult to understand until you read the many examples of multi-word interruptions that follow. In any case, the grammatical explanation is not the most essential or important matter for you to know, so pass by it if it proves too difficult or confusing at this point. The main thing is to observe the examples that follow, and then try to emulate them.

The **tailgate** is what comes after or follows the header. Thus we have as mentioned earlier the header and the tailgate. The term *tailgate* suggests the end of something (tail) and the possible beginning of something (gate). Sometimes the tailgate leads to another phrase or series of attachments which are added on to the initial phrase containing the header, or added on to an earlier part of the attachment.

A **phrase** is more than one word and is not a clause; it has no subject and no main verb; it is a group or set of words that seem to belong together. In the first two types of phrases (prepositional and verbal phrases), any associated objects with their attached descriptors are also part of the phrase. As well, any ensuing phrases that seem naturally to belong to that part of the sentence are part of the phrase, forming a kind of phrase with its extensions, or more simply, an **extended phrase**. The extended phrase consists of a core phrase including the header, plus the object, plus any attachments to the object or the phrase as a whole.

We call something an extended phrase simply to designate that it seems to constitute a unit of complete meaning, or that it is read together for ease of comprehension.

(2) ADDITION: PHRASE		
A phrase consists of a header (preposition or verbal) followed in most cases by an object. Prepositions must have an object. Verbals often require objects. As was explained previously, phrases exhibit a <i>high degree of governing or binding</i> between their header and tailgate. Because the objects are often necessary in phrase, we say that the preposition or verbal and its object show <i>mandatory binding</i> . Such binding indicates that the header-object pair should be read as one unit if at all possible.		
TYPE	HEADER	TAILGATE
prepositional phrase	preposition	nouns, pronouns, or verbals which are used as objects of the preposition; plus any descriptors that belong to the nouns, pronouns, or verbals; plus any additional words or phrases attached to the initial phrase to form an extended phrase
verbal phrase	verbal	accompanying descriptors of the verbal and/or the object of the verbal with its descriptors, plus any other attachments that are added subsequently to the initial verbal phrase to form an extended phrase .

Attachments are words that naturally cling to other words: adjectives and adjectival phrases attach themselves or cling to nouns, and adverbs and adverbial phrases attach themselves or cling to verbs or verbals. In many cases, the level of binding between the attached part and its host is **significant or loose**, but is not mandatory. Removal of such attachments results in some loss of meaning and detail, but grammatically the sentences will still make sense.

9.11 PP Dash M prepositional phrase PP-Dash-M-prep.p.

Note: This form consists of a preposition with its object plus any ensuing related attachments of the object. The preposition depends on the rest of the phrase to make complete sense. The prepositional phrase can end with the object of the preposition, or it can continue with any attachments that relate to the object or to the prepositional phrase as a whole, which would make it an *extended phrase* as we described earlier.

- (1) The face of fortune smiled sweetly on her – **during her youthful years** – as she began a life of unimaginable wealth, comfort, luxury, prestige, and freedom.
- (2) “Iris patterns fulfill these requirements, as do – **to varying degrees** – fingerprints, face shapes, hand geometries, voices, and signatures.” (Corrina Wu in *Private Eyes* in *Science News* Vol 153 p.217)
- (3) Marilyn Bell – **while only sixteen years old** – proved all her family, friends, and relatives wrong, and swam non-stop across Lake Ontario.
- (4) “The early Sixties’ vision of peace, nonviolent reform – **of ending poverty and racism** – evaporated.” (Bruce Shulman in *The Seventies* 3)

examples with extended phrase

- (5) The face of fortune smiled sweetly on her – **during her youthful years in Fiji** – as she began a life of unimaginable wealth, comfort, luxury, prestige, and freedom.
- (6) “But the market – **in particular, starting new businesses** – became the favored means for personal liberation and cultural revolution.” (Bruce Shulman in *The Seventies* 257)
- (7) “Then all the leave-takings are exchanged, the reminders reminded – **of the fireplace and the oven and the new locks on the doors** – and in a small caravan we all move to the foyer and open the door to the warm late afternoon light and in three breaths they are in her car and they are gone.” (Chang-Rae Lee in *A Gestured Life* 143) [an example of extended phrase]
- (8) The youth – **on a raft made of bamboo and balsa wood** – sailed up the west coast of Chile. [an example of extended phrase]
- (9) There she waited – **at the arrivals gate looking as resplendent as ever** – while I tried to rush through past the clerks and counters and desks as quickly as possible. [an example of extended phrase]
- (10) “For all across the region – **in Japan and South Korea as much as in China and North Korea** – one finds the same remarkable gift for regimentation and self-surrender, for hard work and discipline, as if the religious impulse had simply been channeled toward country or company or cause. (Pico Iyer in *Falling Off the World*, p.22) [an example of extended phrase]


Variation

- (11) “The great majority of humans – **be it in China, Japan, Africa, India, the Moslem nations** – still engage in marriages prearranged by their elders or dictated by pragmatic reasons of money, land, tribal politics, or (as in the Socialist countries) housing shortages.” (Francine du Plessix Gray in *On Friendship* in *The Riverside Reader* ed J. Trimmer p.343)
-

9.12 PP Dash M verbal phrase PP-Dash-M-vbl.phr.

Like the prepositional phrase, the verbal phrase consists of its header (the verbal) plus any subsequent components that are nearby that are essential to give full meaning and coherence to the part of the sentence that starts with the verbal. A verbal could be alone by itself, and there would still be meaning, as in *Tom – sitting – read a book*.

But in most cases, the verbal is followed by a prepositional phrase or its object (a noun or pronoun).

There are varying degrees of binding connection or fusion between the ous words and phrases which together form an extended phrase.

verbal + noun/pronoun (object of verbal)**: present participle**

- (1) Most people in the town – ***including those who have just recently moved here*** – feel the same way about keeping the mayor.
- (2) A package – ***containing candy, flowers, and a teddy bear*** – arrived at my doorstep on Valentine’s Day.

: infinitive

- (3) Her aim – ***to alleviate suffering and despair amongst the homeless*** – was a compassionate but difficult one.
- (4) Her idea – ***to rid the neighborhood of drug-dealing, drug-taking, and prostitution*** – took some convincing, but she and her noble assistants eventually prevailed.
- (5) His goal – ***to live*** on an island – was never fulfilled.
- (6) Her ambition – ***to graduate from university*** – came true after seven years of hard work.
- (7) The noblest of goals included in the company’s mission statement – ***to continuously demonstrate towards all coworkers dignity, compassion, and the utmost respect regardless of their job title or type of work*** – was perhaps the most difficult to achieve in the company, but it was the one which all workers thought was most important.

verbal + prepositional phrase**: past participle**

- (8) The country’s first multi-party democratic election – ***supervised by UN observers*** – ran smoothly with a large turnout.
- (9) The orphaned youth – ***raised by his aunt and uncle*** – managed to get a good education and became an active advocate for poor children around the world.
- (10) His heart – ***hardened by the deaths of his father and an infant nephew, and by the breakup with his girlfriend of more than three years*** – was conditioned to an acceptance of the ultimate sadness of life. [extended phrase]
- (11) The students – ***stunned by the madman’s rampage and slaughter of many of their teachers and students*** – could not understand the motives that might have led to such an act.
- (12) The poacher – ***waiting in camouflage gear with a high-powered repeater rifle*** – targeted the endangered lion.

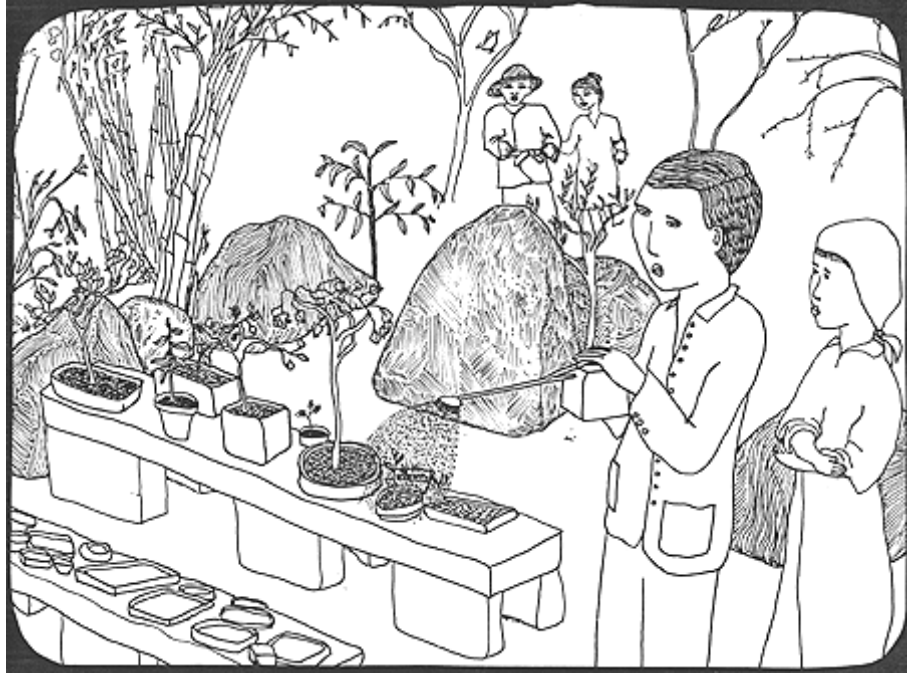


Figure 2: The bonsai grower knows the good results of the patient practice of attention to form.

ADDITION: STRING		
<p>A string is any long combination of words that is set apart from the sentence with punctuation mark(s) and is not a phrase or clause. We could not invent strings and call the following phrases, but we introduce the word string to differentiate those groups of words that usually have mandatory binding (requiring objects), and those that have less binding. There are three types of strings: noun/appositive, adjective, and adverb</p>		
TYPE	HEADER	TAILGATE
noun /appositive string	noun or appositive with or without allowable front descriptors	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>prepositional or verbal phrase;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>lone participle;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>reference clause;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>coordinate conjunction + noun (with/without front descriptors) (conjunctive noun string);</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>more nouns (in series);</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>nouns in a correlative [header may be first part of correlative];</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>a noun with not too many adjectives before it;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>any of the above plus any extended attachments that follow</i>
adjective string	adjective	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>a prepositional phrase;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>adjective + [conjunction or comma] + adjective;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>adjective [+adjective]+ noun;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>any of the above plus any extended attachments that follow</i>
adverb string	1-word adverb	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>a prepositional phrase;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>a verbal phrase;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>one or more adjectives;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>one or more nouns with or without attachments.;</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>any of the above plus any extended attachments that follow</i>

Strings may be found at the **beginning, middle, or end of sentences**. For our purposes now, we will examine strings that come at the middle or end of the sentence. Later we will give examples of strings that appear at the middle or end of the sentence with other punctuation marks – namely, the **comma** and the **parenthesis** – in what we designate as Form 10.

We here examine interrupting strings that appear in the middle of the sentence and that are set off by **two dashes**. Below are the three kinds of strings with their various tailgates.

9.13 PP Dash M noun string PP-Dash-M-ns

Note: The **noun string** will be defined as a *noun (as header) plus its attendant and attached elements*. For example, it can be a noun that is followed by:

- a *prepositional or verbal phrase*;
- a *lone participle*;
- a *reference clause*;
- more nouns (in series)*;

Exceptions: The following deviate slightly from the header rule (the header determines the type of phrase or string of the interrupting part of the sentence) but accommodate nouns, and we can call such constructions noun strings.

- adjective-fronted nouns *a noun with a few adjectives before it*;
- conjunction-fronted nouns *a coordinate conjunction + noun (with/without front descriptors)* (conjunctive noun string);
- nouns with correlatives *nouns in a correlative* [header may be first part of correlative];

An **extended noun string** consists of any noun string that has attachments (word, words, phrases) added to it. Since an extended string is long, it may need to be broken up for purposes of reading.

There may be considerable disagreement between people as to what constitutes a string or what constitutes an extended string. It is not worth arguing about. If you feel a phrase or word is an integral part, then read it together, and just call it a *string*; or if it has additional attachments that you feel belong to it, call it an *extended string*. If you feel that a phrase or word is a peripheral element or part not intimately connected to the string, then read it separately.

noun + prepositional phrase

- (1) ‘It is life’s noise – *the **noise of the news*** – that sings ‘It’s a Small World After All’ again and again to lull you and cover the silence while your love boat slips off into the dark.” (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being*)
- (2) “He picked up something instead – *the **loaf of bread*** – and pulled the tie off the end.” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 782)
- (3) “In cities like Albany, change – the defining ***constant of the American scene*** – occurs just as it does in larger cities where life is priced with a couple of additional zeros.” (Michael M. Thomas in a book review in the Washington Post)
- (4) “John Locke’s idea of the commodity value of each person’s ideas and labor in the marketplace – ***one of the critical tenets of modern capitalism*** – owes much to the change in consciousness brought on by the idea of personal authorship and copyright law.” (Jeremy Rifkin in *The Biotech Century*)
- (5) “The whole enterprise – *the museum **halls with their giant skeletons and flocks of echoing schoolchildren, the university laboratories with their bone trays, the research papers, the journals*** – all of it was going to end. (Crichton in *Jurassic Park*) [2 noun strings plus 2 words]

- (6) “The perspective of the week prompts us to plan for renewal – a **time for recreation and reflection** – weekly and daily.” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 61)
- (7) “He had come all the way – **light-years through space, miles through the snow** – to be balked by Jonesy’s muscles, which were weak and out of shape...” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 823)
- (8) Tony – a hedonistic **soothsayer of gloom and doom** – was not popular amongst most of the students at the high school.

noun + verbal phrase

- (9) Into the sunset she drove in her pickup truck – **the old beater given to her by her ex-boyfriend** – putting the miles behind her, and putting also behind her all the painful, gushing, searing memories of all the good and bad times they had shared together.
- (10) “Someone has taped his blue umbilical cord – **the inch or so left of it** – upward on his belly.” (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being* 37)
- (11) The huge Eden Project biome domes near Cornwall have plant species – **exotic ferns and palms and fruit trees obtained from such countries as Malaysia, Camerouns, St.Helena, and the Seychelles** – that had never before rooted in English soil.
- (12) The new school had many restrictions – **rules to cover all types of activities** – that were hard for many students to accept.

noun and lone participle

- (13) The Malaysian triathlon team – **the clock ticking** – scaled the steep Moroccan cliff, and passed the New Zealand team to take over the lead in the 1998 480 km Eco-Challenge expedition race.

noun + reference clause

- (14) It was the toughest period in his life – **a time when job layoffs, currency devaluation, and political unrest caused many people to lose hope of ever having any kind of security or even a shred of prosperity** – and he had increasingly frequent thoughts of ending it all.

nouns in a series

- (15) Three ingredients – **bacon, lettuce, and tomato** – are the main ingredients in the toasted BLT sandwich.
- (16) My favorite food – **pizza, lasagna, and spaghetti** – are all Italian foods.
- (17) “And our world starts to seem polluted in fundamental ways – **air, and water, and land** – because of ungovernable science.” .” (Michael Crichton in *Jurassic Park* p.312)

Exceptions to the header rule:

There are three exceptions to the header rule for noun strings: in these cases, the noun is not in the header position, although it still ranks as a key word in the string. In two of these cases, a series of adjectives or a conjunction is at the beginning of the interrupting string. In the third case, the noun is part of a correlative.

noun preceded by a few adjectives (adjective-fronted noun)

A noun preceded by several, but not too many, adjectives will be called a noun string. It could be called an adjective string, and as we will see later, when there are very many adjectives preceding a noun, we will in fact call that an adjective string. Such arbitrary decisions may seem to violate the principles of accuracy, but by making it easier, the student who is analyzing sentences and looking for phrases and strings will win in either case

- (1) He brought his hiking hat – *the new solar-powered straw **one** with the tiny fan inside it* – as he trudged across the sun-baked mesa in the midday sun.
- (2) She wore her bikini – *the itsy-bitsy teeny-weeny pink polka-dot **bikini*** – for her first visit to NamHae beach.

noun preceded by a conjunction (conjunction-fronted noun)

- (3) “Our greatest joy – **and our greatest pain** – comes in our relationship with others.” (Stephen Covey *First Things First Every Day* 81)
- (4) “The compelling results convinced farmers that they could reliably expect more eggs – **and money** – from particular breeds, says Hawes, a poultry expert at the University of Maine in Orono.” (Janet Raloff in *Drying Breeds in Science News* vol 152 1997.10.4 p.216)
- (5) Through a lot of effort – **and a lot of patience** – the arcology finally reached critical mass.

nouns in a correlative

- (5) “‘The Family’ included blacks and whites, women – **not just as vocalists but as principal instrumentalists** – and men.” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 59)
- (6) “There they would wage a second war between the states – **not with arms but with votes, dollars, and songs**.” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 101) (this could be a correlative with two adverb phrases to give an adverb string)
- (7) “Because of limits on physical endurance and mental alertness, world-class competitors – **whether violinists or weight lifters** – typically seem to practice arduously no more than four hours a day...” (Daniel Goleman in *Peak Performance: Why Records Fall* in *The Riverside Reader* ed by J. Trimmer p. 405)

Combination of two or more of the above forms

- (8) “Although relatively small – *about two hundred **pounds**, the size of a leopard* – velociraptors were quick, intelligent, and vicious, able to attack with sharp jaws, powerful clawed forearms, and the devastating single claw on the foot.” (Michael Crichton in *Jurassic Park* p.57) [prep.phr. + noun string]

9.14 PP Dash M adverb string

The **adverb string** will be defined as **a single-word adverb** followed by:

- a prepositional phrase;
- a verbal phrase;
- one or more adjectives;
- one or more nouns with or without attachments.;
- any of the above plus any extended attachments

In other words, it is a combination of words and/or phrases that fit together and follow a single-word adverb.

adverb + prepositional phrase or extended phrase

- (1) “For the farmer who takes care to keep them [Holstein cows] cool, sated with high-energy chow, and milked regularly – **often under the management of a sophisticated computer** – these familiar black-and-white cows produce an average of 2,275 gallons of milk each per year.” (Janet Raloff in Dying Breeds in Science News vol. 152 1997.10.4 p. 223)
- (2) “In 139 of these visits – **ostensibly for a flare-up of chronic hip pain** – the correct treatment would have been acetaminophen but no anti-inflammatory drugs.” (N.S. in Science News vol. 152 1997.10.4 p. 223)
- (3) The young salesman – **rarely at home because of his job** – racked up huge monthly phone bills calling to his wife during the evenings.

adverb + participle (present or past) with their associated attachments

- (4) Thawed-out rat skin cells – **earlier frozen for 25 years** – exhibit daily rhythms of gene activity that suggest that cells maintain their own biological clocks.
- (5) The election – **strictly supervised by UN observers** – ran smoothly without any problems.
- (6) The couple – **forever gazing into each other’s eyes** – enjoyed their honeymoon at Montezuma Bay.

adverb + adjective(s)

- (7) The dragon boat paddling crew – **always keen and feisty** – plied the waters with their wide paddles in the powerful strokes; they brought the WanChu dragon boat first across the finish line.
- (8) Tom – **rarely late** – didn’t show up for work the next day.
- (9) The hotel – **although old and obviously showing a past not present grandeur** – still offered excellent service at an affordable price.
- (10) The man’s salary – **although rather large** – was not enough for him to reduce his debts.

adverb + noun with its associated attachments

In the following example, we have an adverb header followed by a noun and its front or back descriptors. The back attachments of the noun usually means a prepositional phrase. The prepositional phrase is often not autonomous, but is integrally involved with the earlier words and is read as a unit with the earlier words.

- (8) Mosquitoes – **frequently** unwelcome visitors in the summer – bother me less than they do most people.
- (9) Dinner – **once**⁶ a common thing in our house – has become a special event.)
- (10) Bill – **previously** a police officer in the NYPD 23rd precinct – now works with youth in the city’s inner core.
-

9.15 PP Dash M adjective string

The **adjective string** will be defined as **an adjective** followed by:

- a prepositional phrase;
- adjective + [conjunction or comma] + adjective;
- adjective [+adjective]+ noun (noun preceded by many adjectives);
- any of the above plus any extending attachments

adjective + prepositional phrase

- (1) The girl – **happy at the prospect of graduation** – began to consider various universities and their special programs.
- (2) The father – **elated by the safe arrival of his first daughter** – could not stop bragging about it to his co-workers.
- (3) Robert – **furious for being left off the roster** – decided to confront the coach for an explanation.
- (4) The parents – **blind to what hidden changes were happening in their daughter’s life and thoughts** – failed to intercept the thundercloud of depression that hit her and drove her to commit suicide.
- (5) Jensen – **impervious to the advice and counsel of his friends** – started to bury himself in the dissipated, dissolute spaces of alcohol.

adjective + [conjunction or comma] + adjective

Note: This sub-form is quite effective and easy to use.

- (6) CJ’s truck – **rusty and old** – had been in the auto shop for weeks.
- (7) Kim’s dress – **short and tight** – made everyone stare at her.
- (8) His behavior – **rude and uncalled for** – was embarrassing to everyone.
-

⁶ **Once** is an adverb here that means *at some time in the past, but not now*.

- (9) The teacher’s lecture – **long and boring** – made everybody sleepy.
- (10) The lost hikers – **weary** and starving and distraught – emerged miraculously from the forest after nine days.
- (11) “Jonesy looked up and saw a dozen glaring lights – **some** red, some blue-white – dancing around up there.” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 140)
-
- (12) “The car turns out to be stolen, and a story makes the rounds – **unsubstantial but juicy** – that she obtained it at Logan Airport, swapping sex for a set of car keys.” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 752)
- (13) The new car – **lightweight and battery-powered** – was the envy of all car enthusiasts at the auto show.
- (14) “”Within months, plans to incarcerate us – **alien and citizen, rich and poor, sick and well** – were implemented.” (Wakako Yamaguchi in *Otoko* in *The Riverside Reader* ed by J. Trimmer p.65)

adjective [+adjective] + noun

Note: This sub-form may appear to be the same as 9.13, the noun with a few adjectives in front of it. In this group, however, there are many adjectives before the noun, or there are a few adjectives but additional descriptive elements after the noun.

So, there is some flexibility here in categorizing strings. If there are not many adjectives, it is a **noun string**; if there are many adjectives, call it an **adjective string**. Both are okay. It is more important to understand the form and to be able to use it and recognize it, than to spend time trying to semantically and hermetically seal this type of usage in a definition.

- (15) The tie you wore last night – **the flashy neon colored green one** – looked really great.
-
- (16) “He had a sudden urge for chocolate – **white milk chocolate, which he hadn’t had since he was a kid** – so he slipped a fifty pennycent bit into the machine and tugged on the drawer, but the drawer was stuck.” (Grant Naylor in *Red Dwarf* p.156)
- (17) “The late Sixties had favored the peace sign – **index and middle fingers in a V** – which proclaimed a world of possibilities, the emphatic conviction that young Americans could build a new and better world.” (Bruce Shulman in *The Seventies* 156)
- (18) “Owen reached for it, then hit the brakes as a Pontiac sedan – **two-wheel drive and no snow tires** – cut in front of them.” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 730)
- (19) “They stretched the extra time allotment to four hours and fifty minutes for the first moon walk so they could carry additional rocks – **two the size of footballs** – back to *Antares*.” (Shepard and Slayton in *Moon Shot* 313)

Combination of two or more of the above

- (20) The new car – **sleek and slim and battery-powered with an onboard fusion generator** – will become the de facto standard in urban family transportation within 15 years in a handful of industrialized nations. [adj string plus verbal phrase]
-

- (21) “A Ford Explorer – **four-wheel** drive but moving far too fast for the conditions, maybe seventy miles an hour – roared past them, pulling a rooster-tail of show.” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 731)
[adjective string plus verbal phrase]
- (22) “Mr. Gray drove the Subaru nearly three miles up East Street – **muddy, rutted, and now covered with three inches of fresh snow** – before crashing into a fault caused by a plugged culvert.” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 792) [adjective string plus verbal phrase]
-

9.16 – 9. 18 PP Dash M clause

Note: This form is too difficult for beginning writers, and should only be employed later on.

9.16 adverbial clause

- (1) My name is Walter – **although you can just call me Wally** – and I come from Alabama, play the banjo, and am married to a wonderful woman named Suzannah.
- (2) I’ve lived here with you for a long time – **since I was 33** – and I intend to stay here with you until death comes to one of us.
- (3) Established just last year – **when the economy was sputtering like a jalopy** – the newly-launched venture company dodged the downturns and is now on an upswing of growth and expansion.
- (4) Peg Leg Bates – **even though he had a wooden leg** – was a great tap dancer.
- (5) “But love – **as** the male novelists define it – and **who**, after all, speak with greater authority? – has nothing to do with kindness, fidelity, generosity, or poetry.” (Virginia Woolf in *Orlando* 269) [this one has two fortifying strings – the first is an adverbial clause, the second is a reference clause, which is discussed next.]

9.17 reference clause

- (6) Maybe I should go somewhere – **where no one has gone before but maybe some animals have** – to a piece of untrodden real estate in a jungle in Guyana.
- (7) “Then, the young woman – **who, of course, has known what’s been going on the whole time** – talks on camera about how the experience has helped her understand what it’s like to feel powerless.” (Cathy Young in Keeping Women Weak in The Riverside Reader ed. J. Trimmer p.387)
- (8) The hired foreign workers were paid in won – **which they could not send directly to their home country** – but, which they could convert for a slight fee into their own currency, and then send home.

9.18 independent clause

- (9) “Tim found a door – **it was unlocked** – and went through, pulling Lex after him.” (Michael Crichton in *Jurassic Park* p.352)
- (10) An important debate – **should religion be taught in public schools** – was settled back in the early 1950s.
- (11) “If he was cold – **you would have thought so, wearing nothing but that coverall** – he didn’t show it.” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 257)
- (12) “It was heavy already – **Jonesy’s muscles were stupidly, infuriatingly weak** – and it would be much worse by the time he got where he was going...but he *would* get there.” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 795)
- (13) “Access to the rocky outposts is difficult – **researchers in some cases have had to be airlifted** – and strictly regulated, and the animals are active mainly at night.” (Christine Mlot in *Return of the Tuatara* in *Science News* Vol. 152 1997.11.8 p.301)
- (14) “I wasn’t that bad in math – **I usually pulled at least a C** – but it didn’t come naturally to me, if you know what I mean.” (Nicholas Sparks in *A Walk to Remember* 68)

Fuzzy Logic case

In the following sentences, **although** presents a classification dilemma: is it an adverbial conjunction that is missing its subject and verb (as in *although it is rather large*)? Or is it another Kind of word, such as a Kind of (conjunctive) adverb?

We could split hairs trying to determine the correct answer, but for the sake of simplicity, we will classify it according to the first explanation.

- (10) The man’s salary – **although [it is] rather large** – was not enough to pay his bills.
- (11) The hotel – **although [it is] old and obviously showing a past grandeur** – still offered excellent service at an affordable price.
- (12) The man – **although [he is] a hard worker** – was fired for undisclosed reasons.
- (13) Your donation – **even though [it is] a small amount** – can help poor people.
- (14) The food – **even though [it is] a small amount** – was enough for everyone.
-

PP – Dash - End

TEN ADDITIONS PLACED AT THE END OF THE SENTENCE AND PRECEDED BY A DASH			
LEVEL		ADDITIONS	PLACEMENT END
I	Word	Word	9.19
II	Phrase /String	1 Prepositional Phrase	9.20
		2 Verbal Phrase	9.21
		3 Noun/Appositive String	9.22
		4 Adverb String	9.23
		5 Adjective String	9.24
III	Clause	Subordinate Adverb Clause	9.25
		Subordinate Reference/Noun Clause	9.26
		Independent Clause	9.27
		List or series of items	9.28

Power Punctuation Form 9.17- 9.21: DASH - End**Footnote Code:** PP- DASH-E

Note: In fact, what follows the dash can be one or more words which explain, amplify, or add a telling comment, an observation, or an afterthought about the first part of the sentence. Stock phrases or collocations will be kept intact and considered as a one word unit.

Examples:

9.19 PP Dash E word

9.19 PP Dash E word

- (1) I have only one favorite color – *blue*.
 - (2) Their decision was a recipe for one thing – *mutual happiness*.
 - (3) The librarian stressed one thing with the students – *quietness*.
 - (4) After the battle the soldiers wanted one thing – *rest*.
 - (5) China’s ancient capital is gearing up for the year’s most important traditional celebration – the *Spring Festival*.
 - (6) “But Gosz and the others riding through the Alaskan wilderness to the Toolik Lake LTER [LongTerm Ecological Research] site 8 years ago recognized that people are part of the environment and that ecologists needed to start examining the landscape most influenced by people – *the city*. (Mari N. Jensen in *Ecologists Go To Town* in Science News Vol 153 1998.4.4 p. 219)
 - (7) “Ecologists use a computer model to explore how the different types of patches shift around in space and in time – *and why*.” (Mari N. Jensen in *Ecologists Go To Town* in Science News Vol 153 1998.4.4 p. 219)
 - (8) She was tall – *even statuesque*.
-

9.20 PP Dash E prepositional phrase

9.20 PP Dash E prepositional phrase

The prepositional phrase is extendable, and includes any elements that are attached to the phrase's object

- (1) The former high school grads decided to meet after the alumni reunion at their favorite meeting spot – **at Marla's Diner**.
 - (2) I finally found my keys in the one place I hadn't checked – **under the car seat**.
 - (3) The nightclub was strict in its refusal to admit young people based on two criteria – **under age, and inappropriately attired**.
 - (4) The picture would look good anywhere – **on that wall over there, on the big wall in the kitchen, or above the media console in the living room**.
 - (5) Each person in the group felt better able to cope with Life's stresses and challenges – **after undergoing a period of spiritual purification**.
 - (6) "It's a very flimsy craft – **like a tissue-paper spacecraft**." Jim McDivitt quoted in *Moon Shot* by Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton p.239)
 - (7) "You'll sauté my delicious dollops of doctored data into a confection that everyone will swallow – **per my instructions, of course**." (Bruce Bower in *The Deep Blue Sleep* in *Science News* Vol .152 1997.12.20&27, p.401)
 - (8) "Their family is performing a *yajna*, Vedic fire ceremony – **at 4am. in the morning!**" (Linda Forman in *Hinduism Today* Feb. 1998p24)
 - (9) "The power to create quality of life is within us – **in our ability to develop and use our own inner compass so that we can act with integrity in the moment of choice**." (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 37)
-

9.21 PP Dash E verbal phrase

This includes the initial verbal phrase complete with any objects if they are required, plus any other extended attachments to the verbal or its objects.

present participle

- (1) "Nearby, other people were doing as I was – **squinting** east into the wind." (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being* 190)
- (2) "The hope and energy of the 1960s – **fueled not only by a growing economy but by all the passions of a great national**

- quest – is long gone.*” (Rosemary Bray in *So How Did I Get Here?* in *The Riverside Reader* ed. by J. Trimmer p.530)
- (3) “For some unknown length of time (probably no more than five minutes, although it felt like longer) they watched those brilliant lights run across the sky – **circling, skidding, hanging lefts and rights, appearing to leapfrog each other.** (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* p.123)
- (4) “The man loves trains – **riding them, photographing them, even listening to them.**” (Rebecca Barry in *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*, p.90)
- (5) “After 22 generations, the males [[stalk-eyed flies] had even more impressive stalks, and the sex ratio had shifted to a surplus of males – **suggesting a link between stalk length and more persistent Y chromosomes.**” (from *Female flies pick mates with sexy eyes* in *Science News* 1998.1.17)
- (6) “However, since World War II, agriculture has been undergoing a transformation – **moving from a family enterprise to big business.**” (Janet Raloff in *Dying Breeds* in *Science News* 1997.10.4 vol. 152 p. 217)
- (7) The two genera of spider (*Argyrodes* and *Nephila*) have a long list of long-standing conflicts – **including prey-napping, egg-stealing, stalking, and web destruction through eating.**
- (8) “This concern reflected the diversification of feminism by the late 1970s – **broadening** attention within its movement to the specific struggles of poor women, African American and Latina women, and single mothers.” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 168)

gerund

- (9) The entire season is a rehearsal for one goal – **reaching the playoffs.**

infinitive

- (10) “Only the president, Carter insisted, could be counted on to make a policy for the nation as a whole – **to consider** freezing tenants in Boston as well as oil barons in Austin.” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 126)
- (11) “For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth – **to know the worst and provide for it.**” (Patrick Henry in M.Scott Peck’s *Abounding Grace* 254)
- (12) “Mr. Dobbs, who had charge of the girl, had taken her when a small child, had reported to Miss Duke [the temporary secretary of Public Welfare for Albemarle County] that the girl was pregnant and that he wanted to have her committed somewhere – **to have her sent to some institution.** (Stephen Jay Gould in *Carrie Buck’s Daughter* in *The Riverside Reader* ed J.Trimmer p.426)
- (13) “Yet I still have faith in this country’s unique destiny – **to create generation after generation of hyphenates like me, to channel this new blood, this resilience and energy into an ever more vibrant future for all Americans.**” (Eric Liu in *A Chinaman’s Dream* in *The Riverside Reader* ed J.Trimmer p.473)
-

combination of two or more previous sub-forms

- (14) “Friction dropped markedly, they report – *in one circumstance, falling to less than a tenth of what it was with no oscillations.*” P.W. in Foiling friction by jiggling a junction in Science News Vol. 154 1998.7.25 p.61) [prepositional phrase + verbal string]
-

9.22 PP Dash E noun string
noun + prepositional phrase

- (1) Words could not describe how she appeared at the Night of Knights grad dance – a stunning ***incarnation of evening elegance and rare radiance.***
- (2) Today was a good day – a ***day of rest, a day of relaxation.***
- (3) She was the perfect match – a ***paragon of virtue, a partner of perfection, a crackerjack of originality and novelty.***
- (4) The child became a major concern – a ***two-legged dynamo with endless energy and curiosity requiring constant supervision, diversion, entertainment, counseling, and education, at times like a car on a collision course waiting for an accident to happen.***
- (5) A wink of bright light caught his eye – a ***brief ephemeral stab of brilliance like the signal of a heliograph.*** (Wilbur Smith in *The Seventh Scroll*)
- (6) “Sly and the Family’s music evinced an incredible freedom – ***freedom of form, with band members trading lead vocals and instrumental solos, and freedom of content.***” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 59)
- (7) “The Department of Defense launched the MSX satellite in part to study what natural patterns exist in the atmosphere – a ***prerequisite for being able to distinguish the signature of a warm trail left by a ballistic missile.***” (R. Monsastersk in *Storms paint bull’s-eyes in stratosphere* in Science News Vol 153 1998.4.4 p.215)
- (8) “The two astronauts swooped toward the lunar landscape in their landing craft – ***the first of their kind to descend on the moon.***” (Aland Shepard and Deke Slayton in *Moon Shot* 14)
- (9) “Instead of having a separate message photon as well as an entangled pair, De Martini and his coworkers used two aspects of each particle of the entangled pair – ***the polarization and direction of motion.***” (Ivars Peterseon in Instant Transport in Science News Vol 153 1998.1.17 p. 41)
- (10) “Led by Harry Wayne Casey, the band⁷ and its raucous dance music become objects of celebration and ridicule – ***symbols of the receding ideal of racial integration in Seventies America.***” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* photo caption between p 110 and 111)

⁷ KC and the Sunshine Band.

- (11) “The third, and by far the biggest and most important, element was the mythopoetic men’s movement – the motley **assemblage of drum-beating retreats, New Age-style group therapy, men’s health magazines and cosmetics, poetry readings, and celebrations of primal masculinity.**” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 183)
- (12) “Night and day, eight lanes of traffic roar over the home of Alain Dubreuil and Cynthia Temoin – a brick treasure **chest under a bridge.**” (Kerry McPhedran in Feb/Mar. 2000 issue *Elm Street* 96)

noun + reference clause

- (13) Jane slipped out of her casual clothes, and put on something she hadn’t worn for a long time – **the satin gown in which her Austrian grandmother used to waltz.**
- (14) Then I sum up the possible answers to the question with one metaphor: “instant pudding” – **that slick, sweet goop that comes in assorted flavours, all artificial.** (Robert Bateman in *Thinking Like a Mountain*)
- (15) Thornton’s doubt was strong in his face, but his fighting spirit was aroused – **the fighting spirit that soars above the odds, fails to recognize the impossible, and is deaf to all save the clamor for battle.** (Jack London)
- (16) “As recently as 1894, bubonic plague killed 13 million people in Asia – **the same plague that killed twenty-five million Europeans five and a half centuries earlier.**” (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being*)
- (17) “The Ram threaded its way among the snow-covered humps on either side – **cars that had been street-parked in defiance of municipal emergency regulations.**” (S.King in *Dreamcatcher* 543)
- (18) “She acts out a pedestrian lugging bags of groceries – heavy **bags, we are asked to observe, that stretch her arms like noodle dough.**” (Amy Tan in *The Hundred Secret Senses* 290)
- (19) “They aren’t fussy about what they eat: skinks, worms, giant weta crickets, even young tuatara or birds – **anything that moves.**” (Christine Mlot in *Return of the Tuatara* in Science News Vol. 152 1997.11.8 p.301)
- (20) “So we have come to cash this check – a **check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.**” (Martin Luther King, Jr. in I Have A Dream in *The Riverside Reader* ed. J. Trimmer p.456)
- (21) “To hear conscience clearly often requires us to be ‘still’ or ‘reflective’ or ‘meditative’ – a **condition [that]we rarely choose or find.**” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 26)

noun + verbal phrase

- (22) The hurricane swept across the prairie – a vacuum **cleaner ripping up trees and houses and buses high into the sky, and then letting them all smash mercilessly to the ground.**
- (18) “When glaciers melt, they leave in outwash plains boulders, rocks, gravels, sand, and clays – the **sand ground to floury powder.**” (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being* 67)
- (19) “Rather, they realized that the first step in building SDI would be the development of ground-based missile defenses – **weapons**

- designed to protect U.S. missiles from attack.” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 227)
- (20) “In the United States, it took shape as the nuclear freeze – a massive social **movement encompassing a wide spectrum of social activists across America.**” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 226)

noun + reference clause

- (21) “He didn’t want to trouble my mother – **a course that backfired, because the imagined is always worse than the reality.**” (Rose del Castillo Guillbault in *Americanization is Tough on “Macho”* in *The Riverside Reader* ed. J. Trimmer 321)
- (22) Most people were against the proposed clear-cut logging except a few – **the loggers who worked for MacMillan Bloedel.**
- (23) “Feminists campaigned for subsidized child care for working mothers and stricter sanctions against deadbeat dads – **those who did not meet their financial obligations to their children.**” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 168) [pronoun + ref. clause]

nouns in a correlative

- (24) “My discovery of America was also a discovery of feminism – **not only Ms. magazine and The Feminine Mystique but also the open and straightforward manner of young American women I met.**” (Cathy Young in *Keeping Women Weak* in *The Riverside Reader* ed. J. Trimmer p.387)
- (25) “We choose – **either to live our lives or to let others live them for us.**” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 29)

noun + adverb + (adjective)

- (26) “British paper currency, which his team examined this summer, has more rounded fibers and far smaller holes – **none apparently large enough for the cocaine crystals to enter.** (from *Why greenbacks make good ‘drug money’* in *Science News* 1997.10.4 vol. 152 p 213)

9.23 PP Dash E adverb string

Note: The header is usually a single-word adverb.

9.23 PP Dash E adverb string

- (1) She doubts if she will stay long at her new job – **precisely because of having to work split shifts.**
- (2) She finally got her degree – **nearly seven years after she started to take evening classes at U.S.Q. in Australia.**
- (3) The wrestler’s grip gave him an advantage over his opponent – **positionally, at least, but not strength-wise.**

- (4) He fit in okay – ***marginally at least, if you consider his greetings to the newspaper boy, the postal clerk, the bank clerk, and the grocery store clerk indicative of deep-felt mutual humanitarian concern over one another’s well-being and health.***
- (5) “They made grants that reinforced their notions of what was best and most deserving – ***overwhelmingly New York-based abstract art.***” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 28)
- (6) Maybe it wouldn’t be such a bad idea to talk to Sylvia’s parents – ***better yet, her sister.***
-

<p>9.24 PP Dash E adjective string</p>

9.24 PP Dash E adjective string

- (1) The scuffle started because the student felt unjustly cut from the tryouts – ***angry at the coach but more so at a couple of the other athletes whom he felt were not as good as him.***
- (2) “The great room was a work of art, its focal point being a monstrous fieldstone fireplace with raised hearth and wood-storage inset – ***complete with stacks of perfectly shaped birch logs.*** (Fern Michaels in *The Guest List* 151)
- (3) “When I yanked them back, she turned the air with her arms – ***oh, so clumsy, so desperate, so sad, a bird with broken wings.***” (Amy Tan in *The Hundred Secret Senses* 287)
- (4) Our winters are getting more mild – ***warmer, in fact, than they have been since we started to keep track of the weather.***
- (5) Many of us don’t like insects because of their appearance, but on Orchid Island in Taiwan, they are unscrupulous – ***treacherous to the extent of snatching and eating pieces (about 21 percent) of the webs of spiders that belong to another genus.***
- (6) Like many in her generation and for most of her teenage years , Melissa was left alone in her own world – ***aloof, aloft, and allegedly allowed to test the waters of maturity and to make her own mistakes.***
- (7) “Each one of them had, at one time or another, been in Joe’s situation – ***lonely, lecherous, opportunistic.***” (Erica Ritter in *Urban Scrawl* 49)
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9.25-9.27 PP Dash E clause
9.25-9.27 Dash E clause

Note: This is a difficult pattern and should not be tried until later on. In many instances of the End of Sentence independent clause, the semi-colon could and should be used rather than the dash.

9.25 adverbial clause

- (1) They waited for the best moment to escape – **when all the guards were on their coffee break.**
- (2) “The struggle comes when we sense a gap between the clock and the compass – **when what we do doesn’t contribute to what is most important in our lives.**” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 57)
- (3) “A typical discard is a half jar of peanut butter – **though non-organic peanut butter does not require refrigeration and is unlikely to spoil in any reasonable time.**” (Lars Eighner in *My Daily Dives in the Dumpster in The Riverside Reader* ed J. Trimmer p.114)
- (4) “Make and keep a promise – **even if it means that you’re going to get up in the morning a little earlier and exercise.**” (Stephen Covey in *First Things First Every Day* 27)

9.26 reference clause

- (5) “It weighed only thirty-one pounds, but Dr. Van Allen’s Geiger counter made the first discovery of the new era – **that the earth is surrounded by huge bands of high-energy radiation composed of particles trapped in our planet’s magnetic field.**” (Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton in *Moon Shot* 48)
- (6) She grew weary of his shallow façade of bravado, his phony compassion, his questionable wealth, and his underlying motives – **all of which gave her ample cause to bid him farewell.**

9.26 noun clause

- (7) One thing still eluded him – **how to perfect the power punctuation sentence forms.**
- (8) She still wanted to know – **who were her birth parents?**

9.27 independent clause

- (9) The invention of the transistor met with little fanfare – **its inventors were not heralded as the Bill Gates of their day.**
- (10) I think you should report it to the police – **it’s the right thing to do.**
- (11) “Real life has one big plus – **it doesn’t get your hopes up.**” (Erika Ritter in *Urban Scrawl* 79)
- (12) “Jonesy looked up at the dreamcatcher, and as he did, something in the room changed – **there was a sigh, almost,**

the sort of sound ghosts are reputed to make at séances.”

(Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher* 758)

- (13) “For another long moment those green eyes had looked into hers, and she had thought he would start crying again – *indeed, one tear, large and perfect, did roll down his stubbly cheek.*” (S. King in *Dreamcatcher* 555)
- (14) “When the present interglacial period started 10,000 years ago, wet conditions should again have developed in Australia – *indeed, India’s monsoon strengthened at this time.*” (R.M. in *Did humans scorch Australia’s outback?* in *Science News* Vol 153 1998.1.17 p.45)
- (15) “She burned two in a row to be exact – *she had the fire in the stove stoked up way too high.*” (Barbara Kingsolver in *The Poisonwood Bible* 241)
- (16) “For the last 20 years, Dubreuil has found treasure in old houses and industrial buildings slated for demolition – *he resells floors, fireplace mantels, doors, windows, bricks and even garden plants.*” (Kerry McPhedran in Feb/Mar. 2000 issue *Elm Street* 98)
- (17) “I don’t find an armoire – *I find 10 of them.*” (Alain Dubreuil in article *The Rescuers* by Kerry McPhedran in Feb/Mar. 2000 issue *Elm Street* 96)
- (18) “I felt put out because I didn’t get any nice presents: no sweater set, no phonograph records – *oh, I thought that day was the lowest a girl can go.*” (Barbara Kingsolver in *The Poisonwood Bible*)

variation: clauses that indicate a break in time

- (19) She and her other two sons had looked everywhere for him, and they had discovered no leads as to his whereabouts – *which led them to contact the provincial and national police.*

variation: clauses that break the continuity of the sentence (reminiscent and evocative of the flow and rhythm of spoken speech)

- (20) She is short – *which might erroneously lead you to believe that she can’t play sports very well.* (speculation about an afterthought)
- (21) “Its latest data suggest that 5 percent of those highly endangered breeds [of livestock] disappear from the face of the Earth annually – *which, Hammond notes, comes to an average of more than one a week.*” (Janet Raloff in *Dying Breeds* in *Science News* vol. 152 1997.10.4 p.216) (third-party commentary)
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9.28 PP Dash E List

Power Punctuation Form 9.28: Dash E List**Footnote Code:** PP-DASH-E-List

Note: A dash can follow a list (as seen in Form 9.9), or the dash can introduce a list. As such, it highlights or draws attention to the list in a more dramatic than formal way. The colon is used to start *formal lists* (recall that a colon requires a full stop when being read); the dash is used to start *informal lists* (recall that a dash requires a pause, not a stop, when being read). The dash can be used with the list items are short. **Examples:**

- (1) I need to buy some more stuff for the camping trip – *waterproof matches, a pack of cards, batteries for the flashlights, one new paddle, and the inevitable mosquito repellent.*
- (2) There are many biometric approaches – *fingerprinting, face recognition, hand geometry, voice printing, and signature verification.*
- (3) “Bjornstam could do anything with his hands – *solder a pan, weld an automobile spring, soothe a frightened filly, tinker a clock, carve a Gloucester schooner which magically went into a bottle.*” (Sinclair Lewis in *Main Street*)
- (4) “The reason that Li finally gave for his appreciation of crab was that it was perfect in the three requisites of food – *color, fragrance, and flavor.*” (Lin Yutang in *The Importance of Living* p.254)
- (5) “After the first day, he stopped listening to the Walkman, discovering that he liked the music of the woods better – *the silk of the wind in the pines, the rust of the crows.*” (Stephen King in *Dreamcatcher*)
- (6) “On the other hand, a number of experts pointed to the national audience for the Nashville sound, the entry of non-southerners into the business, and the appeal of the country lifestyle across rural America – *in the mountain West, the inland valleys of the Pacific Coast states, the desert Southwest, the Great Plains.*” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 116)
- (7) “Segregation disappeared in arenas of casual contact between Americans – *restaurants, airports and train stations, hotel lobbies.*” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 56)
- (8) “They constructed alternative institutions – *food co-ops, underground newspapers, free medical clinics.*” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* 183)
- (9) “...The lion’s share of its industrial workers toiled in low-paying, labor-intensive mills – *making cotton textiles or hosiery, sawing lumber, distilling turpentine and tar for ships.*” (Bruce J. Shulman in *The Seventies* p 110) [list of verbal phrases]
- (10) “Dumpster things are often sad – *abandoned teddy bears, shredded wedding albums, despaired-of sales kits.*” (Lars Eighner in My Daily Dives in the Dumpster in *The Riverside Reader* ed J. Trimmer p.114)

- (11) “Imagine a B & B⁸ run by the Phantom of the Opera – huge chandeliers, voluminous drapes, richly patterned carpets, 14-foot high ceilings, dramatic shadows.” (Kerry McPhedran in Feb/Mar. 2000 issue *Elm Street* 96)

Variation

- (12) “Curiously, this unlikely urban setting works for the couple who grew up in the country – *Temoin, 32, an ESL teacher turned archaeology student, was raised in remote communities on the West Coast; Dubreuil, 46, an architectural salvage specialist, lived in Sainte-Hyacinthe, Que.*” (Kerry McPhedran in Feb/Mar. 2000 issue *Elm Street* 96) (the list at the end uses a semi-colon because its items contain commas)

⁸ bed and breakfast – a type of hotel accommodation where people rent rooms in a large family house and get a breakfast included