

Was Marcus Aurelius on the border when the flames broke out?

Parts of speech: *Was* is a past tense linking verb; *Marcus Aurelius* is a proper noun; *on* is a preposition relating its object *border* to the verb *Was*; *the* is an adjective (definite article) modifying the singular common noun *border*; *when* is a subordinating conjunction joining two groups of words (two clauses) together; *the* is an adjective modifying the plural common noun *flames*; *broke* is a past tense intransitive action verb; *out* is an adverb modifying the verb *broke*. Note that *out* cannot be a preposition because it doesn't do what prepositions do: it doesn't relate one word to another. It also is not the first word in a prepositional phrase—as prepositions must be.

Parts of the sentence: The proper noun *Marcus Aurelius* is the subject of the verb *Was*, and the common noun *flames* is the subject of the verb *broke*. There are no direct objects, indirect objects, or subject complements.

Phrases: There is one prepositional phrase, *on the border*. It modifies the verb *Was*.

Clauses: There are two clauses in the sentence, the independent clause *Was Marcus Aurelius on the border* and the dependent clause *when the flames broke out*. The sentence is therefore a complex sentence in structure. Since the sentence interrogates, or asks a question, it is an interrogative sentence in purpose. Notice that in an interrogative sentence the verb may precede the subject. This reverses the usual position of the subject and verb.

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You would enjoy doing research on the life of Marcus Aurelius, one of the most brilliant and important of all Roman emperors.

FOUR-LEVEL ANALYSIS

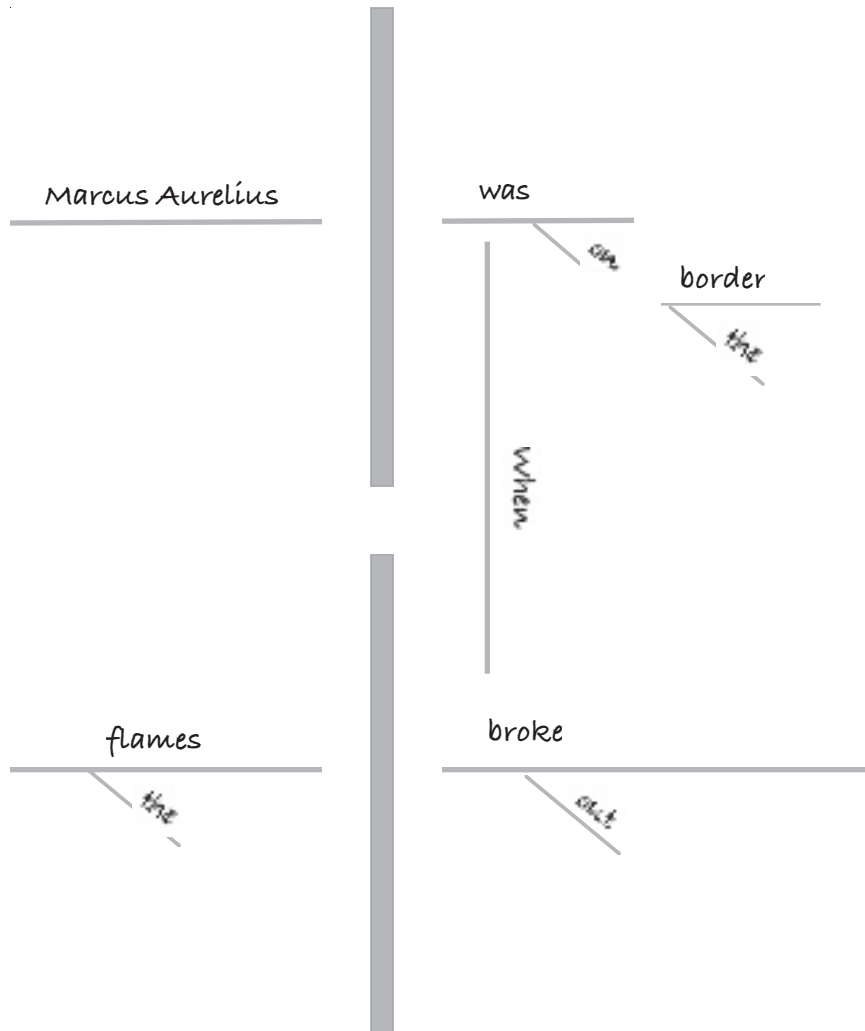
Was Marcus Aurelius on the border when the flames broke out?

Parts of Speech: v. -----n.----- prep. adj. n. conj. adj. n. v. adv.

Parts of Sentence: pred. -----subject----- subj. pred.

Phrases: ---prep. phrase---

Clauses: an ID complex interrogative sentence



Questions for individual thought or small group discussion:

synthesis: making combinations

What is a comma? Try to condense everything you know about commas into a single definition.

divergence: thinking of alternatives

Someone once defined nouns as names of living things and nonliving things. Remembering that the definitions of the elements of grammar you have learned are only the best attempts of individuals to put these matters into words, think of interesting alternative definitions to terms we have already defined. If possible, think of several interesting alternative definitions to the same term.

analysis: breaking down into components

Explain the relationship between the names of the categories of pronouns and the function that each category performs in a sentence.

Use the grammar clues to solve this Mystery Sentence:

This sentence from a children's rhyme begins with an adverb of direction, followed by an intransitive past tense action verb, then a definite article, then a singular common noun which is the subject; the subject is followed by a coordinating conjunction, a transitive active voice past tense action verb, a definite article, a singular common noun as direct object, and an adverb. So the sentence begins and ends with adverbs, and has a compound verb. Only the direct object has two syllables, every other word only has one.

Down came the rain and washed the spider out.

From John Knowles's

A Separate Peace

I didn't entirely like this glossy new surface, because it made the school look like a museum, and that's exactly what it was to me, and what I did not want it to be. In the deep, tacit way in which feeling becomes stronger than thought, I had always felt that the Devon School came into existence the day I entered it, was vibrantly real while I was a student there, and then blinked out like a candle the day I left.

What are the characteristics of this passage from John Knowles's *A Separate Peace*? How does the grammar support the narrative style? What role do pronouns play in the passage? What would happen if you circled every word that was one syllable? What would that show you about the passage? Why would the passage be that way? What is the relationship between the narrative style and the level of the diction?

1. Write a one-clause sentence that contains an infinitive phrase as subject and a gerund phrase as direct object.

2. Write a complex sentence that contains two dependent clauses and only one independent clause.

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1. To think about cheeseburgers implies wanting some.
 2. If you remember, I lost the book when the bear appeared.

Loop Three Writing Lab

The Nature of Conjunctions

1. Write a paragraph of 50-100 words, using only simple sentences, and more than ten coordinating conjunctions.
2. Rewrite the paragraph, but this time, you are not allowed to put the same part of speech on both sides of any conjunction.
3. Reflect on what this attempt has shown you.
4. Write a statement about the nature of conjunctions, and what the complete structure of conjunction and two conjoined terms is like when it is well made.

It is an honor that I dream not of.

-Juliet, in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, I iii.

When Juliet's mother, Lady Capulet, asks her daughter how she feels about getting married, Juliet makes this response.

Parts of speech: *It* is a third person singular subject pronoun; *is* is a present tense singular action verb; *an* is an indefinite article and adjective; *honor* is a singular common noun; *that* is a relative pronoun; *I* is a first person singular subject pronoun; *dream* is a singular present tense action verb; *not* is an adverb modifying the verb; *of* is an adverb modifying the verb.

Parts of the sentence: *It* is the subject of the linking predicate *is*, which connects the subject to the subject complement *honor*; *I* is the subject of the intransitive action predicate *dream*.

Phrases: The sentence contains no prepositional, appositive, or verbal phrases, although it has the interesting adverb *of*, which is usually used as a preposition.

Clauses: This is a complex declarative sentence; the independent clause is *It is an honor*, which is followed by a dependent clause: *that I dream not of*.

FOUR-LEVEL ANALYSIS

	It	is	an	honor	that	I	dream	not	of.
Parts of Speech:	pron.	v.	adj.	n.	pron.	pron.	v.	adv.	adv.
Parts of Sentence:	subj.	pred.	subject complement		subj.	pred.			
Phrases:	-----no phrase-----								
Clauses:	-----independent clause-----				-----dependent clause-----				
	complex declarative sentence								

The Magic Lens 2 • Loop Three • The Word Within the Word 2 • List #45

Identify the *part of speech* of the word in *italics*:

1. aquiline: eaglelike
 The emperor had an *aquiline* nose, like an eagle's beak. _____
2. malfeasance: public misconduct
 The public official was accused of *malfeasance* in office. _____
3. costermonger: fruit and vegetable vendor
 London's cockney *costermongers* sold fruit on *the* sidewalk. _____
4. gynecocracy: a government of women
 The chauvinist was *afraid* of *gynecocracy*. _____
5. tenebrous: dark and gloomy
 The castle's *tenebrous* interior frightened Jonathan. _____
6. superego: unconscious conscience
 Sigmund Freud thought the id was controlled by the *superego*. _____
7. expostulate: to earnestly object
 Elizabeth Bennet ignored *his* earnest *expostulations*. _____
8. monograph: a paper on one subject
 The scholar published a *monograph* on the subject. _____

Identify the *part of sentence* of the word in *italics*:

9. lacustrine: of lakes
 Yeats loved the *lacustrine* *environment* of Innisfree. _____
10. pungent: sharp (especially in smell)
 The *pungent* smell of the spice penetrated the *room*. _____
11. megalomania: delusions of greatness
 The *British* thought Napoleon was a *megalomaniac*. _____
12. syndrome: a complex of symptoms
 The *syndrome* of pessimism weakened the *economy*. _____
13. euphemism: a pleasant name
 The term "rest room" is a *euphemism*. _____
14. dissonant: inharmonious
 A *dissonant* *clamor* arose in the street below Talleyrand's room. _____
15. narcolepsy: attacks of sleep
 The man with *narcolepsy* kept falling asleep, even as *he* spoke. _____

The Magic Lens 2 • Loop Three • The Word Within the Word 2 • List #46

For the next sentences, identify the type of phrase in italics, and give its part of speech.

1. paragon: excellent model
Her computer graphic was a **paragon** *of inventive geometry*. _____
2. antipathy: strong dislike
His fierce **antipathy** *for his rival* continued unabated. _____
3. abyss: bottomless fissure
The wild Irish gorge seemed *to be a profound* **abyss**. _____
4. dissemble: conceal through pretense
Do not be fooled *by this* **dissembling** *and pretense*. _____
5. insidious: sly
Skillful plotting entrapped him; it was an **insidious** scheme. _____
6. impecunious: poor
The skinflint had money; he only appeared *to be* **impecunious**. _____
7. kinesiology: the science of motion
Fully convinced, the Olympic coach studied **kinesiology**. _____
8. beatify: make blissfully happy
After the award she felt completely, blissfully **beatified**. _____

For the next sentences, identify the *sentence structure* (disregard bold type).

9. execrate: to denounce or curse
Xerxes bootlessly **execrated** Alexander, but his words were empty. _____
10. ne plus ultra: peak of perfection
As Ruskin thought, the Mona Lisa is the **ne plus ultra** of portraits. _____
11. vociferous: loud
His **vociferous** expostulations disrupted her tranquility; I know. _____
12. corpulent: full-bodied
As you can see, the **corpulent** epicure enjoys his own creations. _____
13. perihelion: the orbital point nearest to the sun
When the comet reached **perihelion**, its tail crossed the sky. _____
14. cryptic: hidden
The Celtic runes contained a **cryptic** message from the Druids. _____
15. sanctimonious: affectedly holy
His **sanctimonious** condescension revealed his true feelings. _____

The Magic Lens 2 • Loop Three • P as f of G

For each of the following sentences, circle the letter of each answer that is true. The answer can be any combination, including all or none. This exercise will teach you the real process of punctuation as a function of grammar.

1. America the Beautiful is the best song to sing if youre in the mountains.
 - a. italics on the song title
 - b. quotation marks around the song title
 - c. a comma after the dependent clause
 - d. a comma after the independent clause
 - e. an apostrophe in the contraction

2. Yes its best to visit four cities in a six week tour.
 - a. a comma after the interjection
 - b. an apostrophe in the possessive pronoun
 - c. an apostrophe in the contraction
 - d. a comma after the independent clauses
 - e. a hyphen in the compound adjective

3. On the swampy peninsula the incidence of malaria was up by two thirds.
 - a. comma after the introductory prepositional phrase
 - b. a hyphen in the fraction
 - c. a comma after the dependent clause
 - d. commas around the appositive
 - e. commas around the parenthetical remark

4. On December 16 1775 Jane Austen the British novelist was born.
 - a. a comma after the day
 - b. a comma after the year appositive
 - c. a comma after the participial phrase
 - d. commas around the appositive
 - e. a comma after the dependent clause

5. Buoyed by his sudden fame Dali painted with new enthusiasm.
 - a. a comma after the dependent clause
 - b. comma after the introductory prepositional phrases
 - c. a comma after the participial phrase
 - d. commas around the appositive
 - e. a semicolon between the clauses