

**ВПРАВИ ДЛЯ СЕМІНАРСЬКИХ ЗАНЯТЬ З ДИСЦИПЛІНИ ЗА ВИБОРОМ
«СТРУКТУРНО-КОМПОЗИЦІЙНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ АНГЛІЙСЬКОГО
ЕСЕ» для студентів 3-го курсу англійського відділення
факультету іноземних мов
старший викладач кафедри англійської філології Мінцис Е.Є.**

Комплекс вправ для семінарських занять з дисципліни за вибором «Структурно-композиційні особливості англійського есе», що вивчається на третьому курсі, - це навчально-методичний посібник, який включає різноманітні завдання. Деякі з завдань мають творчий характер. Вправи розташовані у відповідності до теоретичного матеріалу лекцій з даного курсу. Метою посібника є формування і розвиток у студентів навичок творчого письма, аналізу структури публіцистичних творів, перевірка рівня засвоєння студентами теоретичного матеріалу та поглиблення їх лінгвістичної обізнаності.

1. Organize the statements into a paragraph. Use only those which are relevant to the topic sentence
GIVEN MY CHOICE I WOULD SOONER BE IN THE AIR FORCE THAN IN ANY OTHER
SERVICE BRANCH

1. I am more interested in flying than in any other military occupation.
 2. Opportunities for advancement are greater in the Air Force.
 3. Wages in certain brackets of the Air Force are higher than in other branches.
 4. There are many opportunities to travel.
 5. My cousin has been in the Navy for two years, and has sailed around the whole world.
 6. I think, though, that I still like the Air Force better.
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2. Explain why the following beginnings and endings are effective or ineffective

BEGINNINGS:

1. My grandmother believed in ghosts.
2. After trying unsuccessfully to write a paper describing my friend and then attempting to gather some new ideas on books I had read during the summer, I gave up and decided to write on my experience in reading "Stories" by S. Maugham. I hope this fits the assignment.

ENDINGS:

1. A paper "Father knows best":
Now that I have been here and have seen the school for myself, I am convinced that Father does know best. I have decided to enroll for the next term at State.
 2. I'm sorry this isn't a better paper, but I didn't have good ideas.
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3. Decide which of the opening sentences have *definite reader appeal*. Rewrite those that are lacking in appeal.

1. In skiing and skating and riding a bicycle, the beginner is faced with a problem.
 2. This composition is about learning to meditate.
 3. My horse is an interesting animal.
 4. I spent a very exciting week in New Orleans at the Mardi Gras.
 5. Well, this young girl I am going to tell you about was named Angela.
 6. First of all, I want to introduce myself.
 7. Most of our zoos need to be modernized.
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4. Study the following groups of sentences. Explain which of them are unified paragraphs and which are merely groups of unrelated sentences. Rearrange them to make them unified.

1. Indians have contributed a great deal to American farming methods. The white settlers in Colonial America might have starved if they had not copied Indian farming methods . Many places in the United States have names of Indian origin. Approximately half of our states have Indian names. At least one tribe, the Pima, had a well-developed irrigation system.
2. It was a warm sunny day without a cloud in the sky. I was standing by a weathered old tenement house. The paint had peeled from the walls; and what once had been a front porch was now a mass of splintered, rotted wood. Down the dirty street, I could see a little girl standing in the shadows. She held a doll with a broken head in her arms. She had long blonde hair, and she was crying.

5. Study the following groups of sentences. Explain which of them are unified paragraphs and which are merely groups of unrelated sentences. Rearrange them to make them unified.

1. No one could escape from the city. The mainland was two miles away, across an expanse of wild water which no boat could survive. All four bridges were down. Men, women, and children crouched in their houses, staying close to the walls because that was the safest place if the roof came down. Houses were collapsing, people were dying. No one knew how many, no one knew when his turn would come. The wind blew on – and on – and on. It would never stop.
2. As you move toward the baggage – claim area, you may see a family group which you can identify by the striking similarity in the way they all walk. Walking away from the departure area, you see three men in telephone booths. Others on their way to the baggage – claim counter who have been met by family or friends usually appear the happiest and walk with a great deal of enthusiasm. An airport is an excellent spot for viewing the entire human emotional spectrum. Those who are waiting to be met keep rising on their toes and looking around.

6. Revise the following sentences. Comment on the problems.

1. Dad was in a state of shock because he was shocked by the size of the dinner.
 2. The last person on the show, who was a stand-up comedian, was a very funny fellow.
 3. The electrician touched a live wire when he was electrocuted.
 4. Our trip to Disney World was, in spite pf the long waits in line, fun for every member of the family.
 5. My grandfather is a successful accountant, a professional clarinetist, and instructs German shepherds.
 6. When I was only three years old, my family moved from Boston to Louisville and we have lived in Louisville ever since.
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7. Analyse the following sentences, explain why they are ineffective. Revise them.

1. My brother Fred is always joking, and he never does anything without joking around.
 2. My freshman year was a good one because it was my first year at college.
 3. The beginning of the unpleasantness started when Sue refused the invitation.
 4. In his opinion, he thought I owed the teacher an apology.
 5. Mike thought that if he acted quickly that he could get the job.
 6. Since I have finally reached the ripe old age of sixteen years of age, I hope to get a job this summer.
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8. Analyse the following sentences, explain why they are ineffective. Revise them.

1. What the salesman wanted us to know was the fact that we did not have to pay the total cost in order to have the bicycle delivered.
2. Deaf people are usually safe drivers because they are aware of their handicap of not being able to hear.
3. What I don't like about shirts is a shirt that has no pockets.
4. The owners realize that we will annoy them for only three months and when September comes again we will go back to school and all the fun we had during our summer vacation will be only a pleasant dream.
5. I want to be a deep-sea diver, and my reason for choosing this profession is that this is the thing that interests me most.

9. Analyse the following sentences, explain why they are ineffective. Revise them.

1. Billy the Kid was America's best-known outlaw, and not many people know that he had a baby-faced look and didn't look like a killer at all, and never used his real name, Henry McCarthy.
 2. I liked the movie more than the book because the movie made the characters seem more real, and they don't seem real in the book.
 3. What I believe about criticism is that some kinds of criticism are harmful, and harmful criticism is criticism that tears a person down instead of helping him.
 4. On account of the fact that our house has been sold, we will be moving away soon.
 5. Mike thought that if he acted quickly that he could get the job.
 6. I liked the waltzing bear best because it had been taught to dance.
 7. We have two English setters, Melissa and Tom, and English setters are such a rare breed that whenever we take them walking, people stop and ask what kind of dogs they are.
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10. Use the *linking words* to restore the relationship between the parts. Classify the type of the *former*.

1. Many of the girls I know ski very well; ..., they are willing to take me along with them.
 2. I have always wanted to be a teacher; ..., I am interested in observing the methods used by my own teachers.
 3. Farming had been a tradition in my family; ..., my interest in it was not surprising.
 4. He had eaten more than anyone else; ..., he did it in half the time.
 5. Everyone says that the show was the best we've ever had; ..., we sold very few tickets.
 6. You will have to sign the documents; ..., you will have to be accompanied by your parents.
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11. Use the *linking words* to restore the relationship between the parts. Classify the type of the *former*.

1. He did not want to go; ... I insisted upon his making an appearance.
2. Perhaps it would take me years to learn the procedure; ..., I might master it in six or seven months.
3. There is very little scenery in this play; ..., you must use your imagination.

4. I'm not a poor driver; ..., the traffic officer always stops me and threatens to give me a ticket.
5. Mr.Black acknowledged that it was Art's fault; ... he pointed out thatBob was responsible to a certain extent, too.
6. Amy felt like going to bed early; ..., she had promised to write to Tom that night.

12. Rearrange the following sentences, making them relevant.

1. All preparations were made carefully, and the rocket exploded.
2. Dad was busy with his monthly report, because he hardly heard a word I said.
3. Dad visited his birthplace and where he grew up.
4. At last I came to a road I knew and which would take me home.
5. The coach was a man of experience and who never got impatient.
6. The typical American changes his job seven times, and a change of career three times.

13. Revise sentences with various problems. Find out the problem.

1. In my opinion, I think the leather jackets in the basement are better buys than the ones on the main floor.
2. Although we enjoyed the trip, the roads were terrible.
3. I like to watch professional tennis because it is an exciting sport to watch.
4. How to load Instamatic camera is something I haven't learned yet.
5. I think that it was really fortunate that we had a spare tire.
6. The mayor personally cut the cake himself.

14. Use coordination and subordination correctly. Revise the following sentences. Supply the details needed to make good sense.

1. The game went into overtime and the coach did not appear for his broadcast at the local studio.

2. He was watching a television play and he decided it was the worst he had ever seen and he was disappointed that this channel would offer such a program and he turned it off.
 3. The traffic was very light, and we all got bad sunburns at the beach.
 4. Mark Twain became a very popular writer, and he had great obstacles to overcome.
 5. Our school has many brilliant students, and we did not get a National Merit Scholarship.
 6. Yesterday I was walking down the street when I met a friend I hadn't seen in years.
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15. Choose one of the following topic sentences and develop each into a meaningful paragraph by supporting it with details, examples, evidence, and reasons.

1. A first impression is not always a reliable basis for judgement.
 2. A book that is one man's meat may be another man's poison.
 3. The first day at college is a nerve-shattering experience.
 4. Words are the most powerful drugs used by mankind.
 5. There are three great advantages to air travel – speed, comfort, and thrills.
 6. Fashions in clothes (books, drama, hairdress, slang, etc.) change from one decade (year, century) to the next.
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16. *Explain why each of the beginnings interests or does not interest you. Comment on the way the author introduces the topic.*

The Fourth State of Matter

By Jo Beard from The New Yorker

The collie wakes me up about three times a night, summoning me from a great distance as I row my boat through a dim, complicated dream. She's on the shoreline, barking. Wake up. She's staring at me with her head slightly tipped to the side, long nose, gazing eyes, toenails clenched to get a purchase on the wood floor. We used to call her the face of love.

She totters on her broomstick legs into the hallway and over the doorsill into the kitchen, makes a sharp left at the refrigerator – careful, almost went down – then a straightaway to the door. I sleep on my feet in the cold of the doorway, waiting. Here

she comes. Lift her down the two steps. She pees and then stands, Lassie in a ratty coat, gazing out at the yard.

In the porch light the trees shiver, the squirrels turn over in their sleep. The Milky Way is a long smear on the sky, like something erased on a blackboard...

My Father

By Chapman Reilly from *Under the Sun*

I have no recollection of a time when I was not afraid of my father. He was critical of everyone and everything, and especially of his children.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 9, 1906. One night when he was a baby, his father shot himself through the head with a pistol. The boss of the printing shop where he worked had fired him that morning for coming in late and hung over. His friends believed it was an accident. They said, "He didn't mean to kill himself. He was just cleaning the gun."

Two years later, Billy, a thin and silent little boy, was walking with his mother, whose name was Daisy, and a gentleman friend of hers on the beach of Coney Island. The man had made Billy a little boat, out of a wooden box, to float around in. They watched the midday sun glisten on tiny waves and seagulls squawk and flap around the barnacled pilings along the fishing pier. Old men squatted on dirty tackle boxes and boys dangled their brown legs holding out lines, waiting for a catch. Laughter shrieked from the boardwalk behind the beach, and in the distance music from the merry-go-round came and went amid the tumbling roar and screams from what was, in my father's time, the world's biggest roller coaster.

The Monster

By Deems Taylor

He was an undersized little man, with a head too big for his body – a sickly little man. His nerves were bad. He had skin trouble. It was agony for him to wear anything next to his skin coarser than silk. And he had delusions of grandeur.

He was a monster of conceit. Never for one minute did he look at the world or at people, except in relation to himself. He was not only the most important person in the world, to himself; in his own eyes he was the only person who existed. He believed himself to be one of the greatest dramatists in the world, one of the greatest thinkers, and one of the greatest composers. To hear him talk, he was Shakespeare, and Beethoven, and Plato, rolled into one. And you would have had no difficulty in hearing him talk. He was one of the most exhausting conversationalists that ever lived. An evening with him was an evening spent in listening to a

monologue. Sometimes he was brilliant; sometimes he was maddeningly tiresome. But whether he was being brilliant or dull, he had one sole topic of conversation: himself. What *he* thought and what *he* did...

The name of this monster was Richard Wagner...

Prejudice

By Michael Wilds

Prejudice is a judgement or opinion held in disregard of facts that contradict it. Any school child will tell you that prejudice is wrong. But any school child will also, with little or no prompting, tell you jokes about dumb Polacks, conniving Jews, naïve prostitutes, senile teachers, or some other suitable group whom society has made the victim of one of its many biased stereotypes. Showing prejudice is a popular sport played skillfully by society since the beginning of time. It is a habit of the mind which affects all of us, invariably serving to feed our egos at the expense of someone else. In a petty way prejudice satisfies our need to feel superior without merit. After all, it is so easy to label someone “slow,” “dirty,” “unreliable,” or “ugly”, in turn causing us to seem “quick,” “clean,” “reliable,” and “handsome” by contrast. Even a child’s screaming tirade against the awful taste of spinach is usually an uninformed judgement about this much maligned vegetable. By screaming about how “yuckie” spinach is, the child is trying to prove himself too good for such a slimy aliment.

Prejudice crops up in amazing places, often slipping by unrecognized. The following quotation by Charlotte Bronte serves as a case in point: *Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education; they grow there firm as weeds among the rocks.*

Northeast Direct

By Dagoberto Gilb from The Threepenny Review

I’m on board Amtrak’s number 175 to Penn Station. I’ve traveled by train a couple of times in the past year, but last time I discovered that each car had one electric outlet. Besides lots of room, besides that comforting, rolling motion, it’s what I think about now when I think about the train. My Powerbook has a weak battery, and I can plug in and type as long as I want.

The car is empty. Maybe three of us new passengers, two previously seated. So I do feel a little awkward taking the seat right behind this guy I saw hustling on several minutes before I did. He’d already reclined his aisle seat, thrown his day bag and warm coat on the

one by the window. He was settled. I am sure he was more than wondering why, with so many empty seats all around, I had to go and sit directly behind him. But I felt something too. Why did *he* have to pick a seat in a row in front of the electrical outlet? And if he grumbled when I bumped the back of his seat to get by, I grumbled because I had to squeeze past to get over to the window seat behind him.

I'm over it quickly because I've got my machine on and I'm working. And he seems to be in his world too. He's taken a daily planner out, and he's checking a few things...

Ring Leader

By Natalie Kusz from Allure

I was thirty years old when I had my right nostril pierced, and back-home friends fell speechless at the news, lapsing into long telephone pauses of the sort that June Cleaver would employ if the Beave had ever called to report, "Mom, I'm married. His name's Eddie." Not that I resemble a Cleaver or have friends who wear pearls in the shower, but people who have known me the longest would say that for me to *draw* attention to my body rather than to work all out to *repel* it is at least as out of character as the Beave's abrupt urge for his-and-hers golf ensembles. A nose ring, they might tell you, would be my last choice for a fashion accessory, way down on the list with a sag-enhancing specialty bra or a sign on my butt reading "Wide Load."

The fact is, I grew up ugly – no, worse than that, I grew up *unusual*, that unforgivable sin among youth. We lived in Alaska, where, despite what you might have heard about the Rugged Individualist, teenagers still adhere to the universal rules of conformity: if Popular Patty wears contact lenses, then you will by gum get contacts too, or else pocket those glasses and pray you can distinguish the girls' bathroom door from the boys'. The bad news was that I had only one eye, having lost the other in a dog attack at age seven...

An increasing number of midlife women are reentering the workforce, pursuing college degrees, and getting more involved in the public arena. Several labels besides "midlife" have been attached to this type of person: the mature woman, the older woman, and, more recently, the reentry woman. By definition, she is between thirty-five and fifty-five years old and has been away from the business or academic scene anywhere from fifteen to thirty years. The

academic community, the media, marketing people, and employers are giving her close scrutiny, and it is apparent that she is having a greater impact on our society than she realizes.

(Jo Ann Harris)

You are completely alone in a large open space and are struck by a terrifying, unreasoning fear. You sweat, your heart beats, you cannot breathe. You fear you may die of a heart attack, although you do not have heart disease. Suppose you decide you will never get yourself in this helpless situation again. You go home and refuse to leave its secure confines. Your family has to support you. You have agoraphobia – a disabling terror of open spaces.

(“Controlling Phobias Through Behavior Modification”)

My mother used to have a little china cream and sugar set that was given to her by a woman who later killed her children with an axe. It sat cheerfully in the china cabinet, as inadequate a symbol as I have ever seen of the dark mysteries within us. Yet at least it was there to remind us that no matter how much Jesus wanted us for a sunbeam, we would still have some day to cope with a deeper reality than common sense could explain. It stood for strange cars not to get into, running shoes to wear when you were out alone at night and the backs of Chinese restaurants you were not supposed to go into.

(Marian Engle, review of *The Goddess and Other Women* by Joyce Carol Oates)

It’s like Pearl Harbor. The Japanese have invaded, and the US has been caught short. Not on guns and tanks and battleships – those are yesterday’s weapons – but on mental might. In a high-tech age where nations increasingly compete on brainpower, American schools are producing an army of illiterates. Companies that cannot hire enough skilled workers now realize they must do something to save the public schools. Not to be charitable, not to promote good public relations, but to survive.

(Nancy Perry, “Saving the Schools: How business Can Help”)

When you leave your apartment or house, do you begin to feel better? If you leave for a week-long trip, do you find your head clears, your migraine disappears, dizziness stops, your aches and pains subside, depression fades away, and your entire attitude is better? If so, chemical pollution of the atmosphere in your home may be making you ill.

(Marshall Mandell, “Are You Allergic to Your House?”)

17. Fill in the gaps using one of the transitional devices given below to restore the unity of the paragraph. Point out other devices of coherent writing used here:

My efforts to define workaholism and to distinguish workaholics from other hard workers proved difficult. *While* workaholics do work hard, not all hard workers are workaholics. Moonlighters, *for example*, may work 16 hours a day to make ends meet, but most of them will stop working when their financial circumstances permit. Accountants, *too*, seem to work non-stop, but many slow down after the April 15 tax deadline. Workaholics, *on the other hand*, always devote more time and thought to their work than their situation demands. Even the absence of deadlines to meet, mortgages to pay, promotions to earn, or bosses to please, workaholics still work hard. What sets them apart is their attitude toward work, not the number of hours they work.

(Marilyn Machlowitz, "Workaholism: What's Wrong with Being Married to Your Work?")

- too
- on the other hand
- while
- for example
