



### **NOTE:**

This material is a part of the tutorials in English Syntax held at the Institute of Foreign Languages and the Faculty of Arts, University of Montenegro.

The primary aim of the Workbook is to serve as the backup teaching material which accompanies the relevant chapters of the textbook *English Syntax – forms and functions* by Doc. dr Igor Lakić, whose lectures have inspired the creation and modeling of this material.

The Workbook resulted from years of teaching practice and comprises various exercises, some of which have been taken from the syntax books listed in the Literature section. The exercises have been adapted to meet the undergraduate Syntax course requirements and they are aimed at facilitating comprehension of the structure of English and sentence parsing.

This material has not been written for publication and no part of the Workbook may be reprinted, reproduced or used for commercial purposes.

# 1. CONSTRUCTIONS ACCORDING TO TYPE

## ENDOCENTRIC CONSTRUCTIONS

COORDINATE	SUBORDINATE	
ADDITIVE ( AND )	ATTRIBUTE FIRST	
<p>Jack and Jill ( NP )  you and me ( NP )  She stayed home and he went out.  ( compound sentence )  in and out ( PrepP )  beautiful gal and older guy ( NP )  quite quickly and pretty strictly( AdvP )  stayed home and watched TV ( VP )</p>	<p>M  +  H</p>	<p>silly girl, happy hour ( NP )  jolly nice, rather slow ( AdjP )  fairly cheaply, very well ( AdvP )</p>
	<p>Det +H</p>	<p>no sugar, the baby, my soul ( NP )</p>
	<p>complex  sent.  (s+m)</p>	<p>If we buy tickets, we will come.</p>
	<p>Vaux  +  Vm</p>	<p>was preparing, have said ( VP )</p>
ALTERNATIVE ( OR )	CENTRE FIRST	
<p>Steve or Nora ( NP )  you or me ( NP )  Should I stay or should I go?  ( compound sentence )  beautiful girl or handsome guy ( NP )  utterly stupid or very sincere ( AdjP )  play games or watch TV ( VP )  up or down ( AdvP )</p>	<p>V  +  Adv</p>	<p>work hard, went there ( VP )</p>
	<p>complex  senten  (m+s)</p>	<p>We will come if we buy tickets.</p>
	<p>H + O</p>	<p>book on the shelf, house in  suburbia ( NP )  good enough, bad indeed ( AdjP )</p>
APPOSITIVE ( NP )	ATTRIBUTE DISCONTINUOUS	
<p>Dr Inaritu  lake Michigan  PhD Rob Sullivan  Cetinje, the royal capital of  Montenegro  King Arthur</p>		<p>too honest to be a sailor ( AdjP )  a better plan than this ( NP )  too good to be true ( AdjP )</p>
	CENTRE DISCONTINUOUS	
		<p>could not leave ( VP )  is always trying ( VP )</p>

# EXOCENTRIC CONSTRUCTIONS

<b>DIRECTIVE</b>	<b>a) VERB + OBJECT ( VP )</b>
	missed you, promised to come, wanted to leave immediately, will change the world, saw it
	<b>b) PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES</b>
	in the corner, near the fire, on the cuff, by the way, in front of our house
<b>CONNECTIVE</b> (VP → Vc + Pred)	<b>c) SUBORDINATE CLAUSE</b>
	as soon as I came even though I cried because you didn't do it
<b>PREDICATIONAL</b> (simple sentences)	is a huge profit was interested in linguistics seems that she is over you appears confident
<b>PREDICATIONAL</b> (simple sentences)	All these books are for sale. She is leaving today. That man I just don't like! He bought a book and gave it to me. Off we go.

**A. IDENTIFY THE CONSTRUCTION TYPES AND THE SYNTACTIC LEVELS TO WHICH THE FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTIONS BELONG. THE FIRST CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN ANALYSED FOR YOU.**

- lives there	<u>ENDOCENTRIC</u>	<u>SUBORDINATE</u>	<u>CENTRE FIRST</u>	<u>VERB PHRASE</u>
- in the evening	_____	_____	_____	_____
- a social ladder	_____	_____	_____	_____
- have exceeded	_____	_____	_____	_____
- is radiant	_____	_____	_____	_____
- Clive arrived safe and sound.	_____	_____	_____	_____
- extremely boring	_____	_____	_____	_____
- This cannot be negotiable.	_____	_____	_____	_____
- to and fro	_____	_____	_____	_____
- was listening	_____	_____	_____	_____
- if you insist	_____	_____	_____	_____
- I arrived safely although we passed through hell.	_____	_____	_____	_____
- She bumped in and we all looked at her.	_____	_____	_____	_____
- fairly quickly and strictly professionally	_____	_____	_____	_____
- about us	_____	_____	_____	_____

- gave a wink

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- speaks fluently

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- amber eyes

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- the Ministry of Justice

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---

---

- has just come

---

---

---

---

- was more than enough

---

---

---

---

- no place to go

---

---

---

---

- Dorian`s wife

---

---

---

---

- seems radical

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- did not recommend

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- If you really want to know, call her.

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- will meet all the participants

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- Dickens, the author of `Oliver Twist`

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- M & S

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- 150

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- old enough

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- took a boat trip along the coast

\_\_\_\_\_

- was more than enough

\_\_\_\_\_

- because she disappeared

\_\_\_\_\_

- started crying incessantly

\_\_\_\_\_

- Off we go!

\_\_\_\_\_

- to and fro

\_\_\_\_\_

- Lake Como

\_\_\_\_\_

- too green to be red

\_\_\_\_\_

- you or me

\_\_\_\_\_

- If you see her, tell her I forgive her.

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. IDENTIFY THE CONSTRUCTION TYPES AND THE SYNTACTIC LEVELS TO WHICH THE FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTIONS BELONG.**

us and them

\_\_\_\_\_

Loch Ness

\_\_\_\_\_

a good book but a bad film

\_\_\_\_\_

That day I do not want to remember.

\_\_\_\_\_

were playing

\_\_\_\_\_

has never been

\_\_\_\_\_

If you leave now, you will catch 3:10 to Yuma.

\_\_\_\_\_

when Harry met Sally

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

before sunrise

\_\_\_\_\_

has been here

\_\_\_\_\_

is smiling

\_\_\_\_\_

is interesting

\_\_\_\_\_

insisted that he retire

\_\_\_\_\_

game of thrones

\_\_\_\_\_

pretty fast and quite efficiently

\_\_\_\_\_

Off with their heads!

\_\_\_\_\_

the big bang theory

\_\_\_\_\_

We went there although we were not invited.

\_\_\_\_\_

cried incessantly

\_\_\_\_\_

could unexpectedly leave

\_\_\_\_\_

might meet all of them

\_\_\_\_\_

Phd Ross Geller

\_\_\_\_\_

too pretty to be a detective

\_\_\_\_\_

## ENDOCENTRIC AND EXOCENTRIC CONSTRUCTIONS

**A. IDENTIFY THE CONSTRUCTION TYPES AND THE SYNTACTIC LEVELS TO WHICH THE FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTIONS BELONG. THE FIRST CONSTRUCTION IS ANALYSED FOR YOU.**

	<u>ENDOCENTRIC</u>	<u>SUBORDINATE</u>	<u>CENTRE FIRST</u>	<u>VERB PHRASE</u>
- lives there				
<b>- in the evening</b>	exocentric	directive	-	PrepP
<b>- a social ladder</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute first	NP
<b>- have exceeded</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute first	VP
<b>- is radiant</b>	exocentric	connective	Vc + Pred	VP
<b>- Clive arrived safe and sound.</b>	exocentric	predicational	clause	simple sentence
<b>- extremely boring</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute first	AdjP
<b>- This cannot be negotiable.</b>	exocentric	predicational	clause	simple sentence
<b>- to and fro</b>	endocentric	coordinate	additive	PrepP
<b>- was listening</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute first	VP
<b>- if you insist</b>	exocentric	directive	-	(subordinate) clause
<b>- I arrived safely although we passed through hell.</b>	endocentric	subordinate	centre first	complex sentence
<b>- She bumped in and we all looked at her.</b>	endocentric	coordinate	additive	compound sentence
<b>- fairly quickly and strictly professionally</b>	endocentric	coordinate	additive	AdvP

- <b>about us</b>	exocentric	directive	-	PrepP
- <b>gave a wink</b>	exocentric	directive	V + DO	VP
- <b>speaks fluently</b>	endocentric	subordinate	centre first	VP
- <b>amber eyes</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute first	NP
- <b>the Ministry of Justice</b>	endocentric	subordinate	centre first	NP
- <b>has just come</b>	endocentric	subordinate	centre discontinuous	VP
- <b>was more than enough</b>	exocentric	connective	Vc + Pred	VP
- <b>no place to go</b>	endocentric	subordinate	centre first	NP
- <b>Dorian`s wife</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute first	NP
- <b>seems radical</b>	exocentric	connective	Vc + Pred	VP
- <b>did not recommend</b>	endocentric	subordinate	centre discontinuous	VP
- <b>If you really want to know, call her.</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute first	complex sentence
- <b>will meet all the participants</b>	exocentric	directive	V + DO	VP
- <b>Dickens, the author of `Oliver Twist`</b>	endocentric	coordinate	appositive	NP
- <b>M &amp; S</b>	endocentric	coordinate	additive	NP
- <b>150</b>	endocentric	coordinate	additive	NP
- <b>old enough</b>	endocentric	subordinate	centre first	AdjP

<b>- took a boat trip along the coast</b>	exocentric	directive	V + DO	VP
<b>- was more than enough</b>	exocentric	connective	Vc + Pred	VP
<b>- because she disappeared</b>	exocentric	directive	-	(subordinate) clause
<b>- started crying incessantly</b>	exocentric	directive	V + DO	VP
<b>- Off we go!</b>	exocentric	predicational	clause	simple sentence
<b>- to and fro</b>	endocentric	coordinate	additive	PrepP
<b>- Lake Como</b>	endocentric	coordinate	appositive	NP
<b>- too green to be red</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute discontinuous	AdjP
<b>- you or me</b>	endocentric	coordinate	additive	NP
<b>- If you see her, tell her I forgive her.</b>	endocentric	subordinate	attribute first	complex sentence

**B. IDENTIFY THE CONSTRUCTION TYPES AND THE SYNTACTIC LEVELS TO WHICH THE FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTIONS BELONG.**

us and them

ENDOCENTRIC                      COORDINATE                      ADDITIVE                      NP

Loch Ness

ENDOCENTRIC                      COORDINATE                      APPOSITIVE                      NP

a good book but a bad film

ENDOCENTRIC                      COORDINATE                      ALTERNATIVE                      NP

That day I do not want to remember.

EXOCENTRIC                      PREDICATIONAL                      CLAUSE                      SIMPLE SENTENCE

were playing

ENDOCENTRIC                      SUBORDINATE                      ATTRIBUTE FIRST                      VP

has never been

ENDOCENTRIC                      SUBORDINATE                      CENTRE                      VP  
DISCONTINUOUS

If you leave now, you will catch 3:10 to Yuma.

ENDOCENTRIC                      SUBORDINATE                      ATTRIBUTE FIRST                      COMPLEX SENTENCE

when Harry met Sally

EXOCENTRIC                      DIRECTIVE                      SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

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ENDOCENTRIC                      COORDINATE                      ADDITIVE                      NP (number)

before sunrise

EXOCENTRIC                      DIRECTIVE                      PrepP

has been here

EXOCENTRIC                      CONNECTIVE                      V<sub>c</sub> + PRED                      VP

is smiling

ENDOCENTRIC                      SUBORDINATE                      ATTRIBUTE FIRST VP

is interesting

EXOCENTRIC                      CONNECTIVE                      V<sub>c</sub> + PRED                      VP

insisted that he retire	EXOCENTRIC	DIRECTIVE	V + DO	VP
game of thrones	ENDOCENTRIC	SUBORDINATE	CENTRE FIRST	NP
pretty fast and quite efficiently	ENDOCENTRIC	COORDINATE	ADDITIVE	NP
Off with their heads!	EXOCENTRIC	PREDICATIONAL	CLAUSE	SIMPLE SENTENCE
the big bang theory	ENDOCENTRIC	SUBORDINATE	ATTRIBUTE FIRST	VP
We went there although we were not invited.	ENDOCENTRIC	SUBORDINATE	CENTRE FIRST	COMPLEX SENTENCE
cried incessantly	ENDOCENTRIC	SUBORDINATE	CENTRE FIRST	VP
could unexpectedly leave	ENDOCENTRIC	SUBORDINATE	CENTRE DISCONTINUOUS	VP
might meet all of them	EXOCENTRIC	DIRECTIVE	V + DO	VP
Phd Ross Geller	ENDOCENTRIC	COORDINATE	APPOSITIVE	NP
too pretty to be a detective	ENDOCENTRIC	SUBORDINATE	ATTRIBUTE DISCONTINUOUS	AdjP

## 2.1. IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENTS (IC ANALYSIS)

LEVEL	FIRST CUT			
<b>SENTENCE</b>				
<b>SIMPLE SENTENCE</b>	separates subject and predicate			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>All birds</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>must eat.</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>All birds</i>	<i>must eat.</i>	
<i>All birds</i>	<i>must eat.</i>			
<b>COMPLEX SENTENCE</b> (because, although, as, when, even though ...)	between main and subordinate clause			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>I feel exhilarated</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>when I pass the exam</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>I feel exhilarated</i>	<i>when I pass the exam</i>	
<i>I feel exhilarated</i>	<i>when I pass the exam</i>			
<b>COMPOUND SENTENCE</b>  (and, but, or)	in front of and after the conjunction			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>I am sleeping</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>and</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>she is awake.</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>I am sleeping</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>she is awake.</i>
<i>I am sleeping</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>she is awake.</i>		

If a sentence contains a sentence modifier (exclamations, vocatives, PrepP, VingP) first cut is in front of or after the sentence modifier. After doing that, you can proceed and make the other cuts according to the given rules.

<i>Of course,</i>	<i>she IS pretty.</i>
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NOTE: Sentence modifiers are usually separated from the rest of the sentence by commas so you should have no trouble whatsoever in detecting them.

<b>SUBORDINATE CLAUSE</b>	after the conjunction		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>because</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>she left</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>because</i>	<i>she left</i>
<i>because</i>	<i>she left</i>		
<b>RELATIVE CLAUSE</b>	after relative pronoun		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>who</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>plays in the band</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>who</i>	<i>plays in the band</i>
<i>who</i>	<i>plays in the band</i>		
<b>PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE</b>	after preposition		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>in</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>the suite</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>in</i>	<i>the suite</i>
<i>in</i>	<i>the suite</i>		

## INFINITIVE PHRASE

after infinitive (if there are no adverbials)

*to*

*raise children*

## GERUNDIAL PHRASE

after gerund (if there are no adverbials)

*speaking*

*to him*

## NOUN PHRASE

Beginning at the end cut off successively each **QUALIFIER** until you reach the noun head.

*the girl*

*I met (Q)*

So, first check whether NP has a qualifier and if it has - make the first cut in front of it and then proceed. After doing this, begin at the front and cut off all prenominal modifiers until you reach the noun head.

the old garden hat in the shed

the old garden hat				in the shed (Q)		
<i>the</i>	<i>old</i>	<i>garden</i>	<i>hat</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>shed</i>

## VERB PHRASE

Modifiers of the verb are cut off from the front, back to the verb head.  
There is seldom more than one AM preceding the main verb.

*happily*

*jumped on the table*

After the preverbal modifiers have been cut off, one begins at the back and cuts off successive modifiers up to the verb head.

*happily (1)*

*jumped*

*on the table (2)*

Auxiliaries are cut off successively up to the verb head.

## PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO:

### - ADJECTIVE PHRASES FUNCTIONING AS MODIFIERS WITHIN NOUN PHRASES

<i>a</i>	<i>very amusing</i>	<i>story</i>
	<i>very</i>	<i>amusing</i>

### - COORDINATE **MODIFIERS** WITHIN NPs JOINED WITH CONJUNCTIONS **AND**, **BUT** or **OR**. THEY ARE SEPARATED AS FOLLOWS:

<i>beautiful</i>	<i>red and white</i>	<i>stripes</i>	
	<i>red</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>white</i>

### - IF WITHIN VP THERE IS AN **ADVERB** (not, always, rarely...) INSERTED BETWEEN AUXILIARY AND MAIN VERB YOU ANALYSE THE PHRASE AS FOLLOWS:

<i>has</i>	<i>never</i>	<i>answered</i>
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### - WITHIN VP FIRST CUT IS **ALWAYS** MADE IN FRONT OF OR AFTER **ADVERBIAL MODIFIER** (depends on whether it precedes or follows the main verb).

### - IF WITHIN VP YOU HAVE **INDIRECT** AND **DIRECT OBJECT** LEAVE THE INDIRECT OBJECT WITH THE VERB (since it is closer) AND CUT OFF DIRECT AND THEN INDIRECT OBJECT:

<i>told</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>the truth</i>
<i>told</i>	<i>her</i>	

### - COORDINATE PHRASES WITHIN VP:

<i>wanted</i>	<i>to come and visit me</i>			
	<i>to come</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>visit me</i>	
			<i>visit</i>	<i>me</i>

## SUMMARY:

1. IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF SENTENCE (is it simple, compound or complex)
2. CUT OFF ANY SENTENCE MODIFIERS.
3. CUT BETWEEN THE SUBJECT NOUN PHRASE AND THE PREDICATE VERB PHRASE.
4. CUT THESE PHRASES INTO SUCCESSIVE ICs, DOWN TO THE INDIVIDUAL WORDS





10. Joe taught me how to light a fire and how to ride a horse.

11. The boys who broke the highly expensive Ming vase were not punished.

12. It is a task which involves exploring the borderline between painting and photography.

14. I do not want to waste my time and spend the best years of my life in this hermetically sealed box.

## 2.2. IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENT ANALYSIS (PART TWO)

### A. DRAW AN IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENT ANALYSIS DIAGRAM OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

1. He had to read the book because his teacher told him to read it.
2. Amy asked me where her office was as she wanted to warn her about the audit.
3. She felt mortified and embarrassed when he suddenly asked her about her fiancé.
4. When Rick saw his friends in public, he admitted that he could not handle it anymore.

5. While we were there we met a very nice couple who showed us the town and invited us to their wedding.

6. He accepted the proposal but he changed his mind after a few minutes.

7. I will give you the necessary directions if you insist but the rest is your responsibility.

9. The police interrogated the man with an old and shabby straw hat but did not detect anything suspicious.

10. She decided to go to the city and asked if I could give her a lift.

11. He asked if he might conduct us to the ball dedicated to our recently deceased princess.

**B. DRAW AN IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENT ANALYSIS DIAGRAM OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:**

1. Their rather stubborn refusal to see that the protection of the environment should be our priority is a great tragedy.
2. A recent survey suggests that the longest stayers are the British who travel to Spain in order to see friends and visit relatives.
3. After many years of teaching undergraduates I have finally realized that development of their understanding and knowledge reflects the development of linguistics and science.
4. A television company did an experiment last year and their idea was to find out how and why people want to live in the conditions of solitude and tranquility.

**ENGLISH SYNTAX EXAMINATION PAPER**  
(mock test)

Student

Index no.

**1. Identify the construction types and the syntactic levels to which the following constructions belong:**

1. you and me

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you rich?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. among school children

\_\_\_\_\_

4. when Tess confessed

\_\_\_\_\_

5. impose severe restrictions

\_\_\_\_\_

6. twist in my sobriety

\_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Explain the ambiguity of the following noun phrase, using immediate constituent analysis and offering a proper interpretation:**

an old neighbor's story

an old neighbor's story

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**3. Draw an immediate constituent analysis diagram of the following sentences:**

Alternatively, you and your assistant might want to consider discussing your financial problems with your bank manager.

One does not enjoy having a churning stomach during a game but if you intend to win tournaments you must go through it.

## **ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE MIDTERM EXAM?**

### **TEST YOURSELVES!**

1. Suddenly, Jim paused to overcome an overwhelming and profound emotion that made his voice hoarse and deep and took a rather deep, heavy breath.
2. When they discussed these somewhat trivial things and talked about her and her faults, she felt she had to watch and keep her distance.
3. A faint ray of light flashed briefly in the roof above me and her and all of a sudden there was a sound like the fairly quick opening of a door.
4. He began to pack their belongings when he remembered that he had once told her that they would definitely visit her and that they would give her their key.
5. Although they constantly try to persuade the public that its product has unique qualities, the truth is that recent events have dramatically and significantly changed our perspective.
6. When he walked into the house to check if Phoebe had made any progress and if she had finished the report he had already decided to offer her a job in Rio.
7. She laughed and felt exhilarated when she stepped into the hot sun but I pretended I was alone and continued to cut the trees with care and pleasure.
8. I lay on the carpet near the sliding door of terrace and dreamt about our encounter and sleep came for me as I watched the stars glitter and twinkle.
9. She sincerely believed that the realization of her utopian dreams and her secret wishes was not possible even though she did not want to admit or accept that.
10. The boys behind the counter laughed at him and his girlfriend and a rather stout pub owner came downstairs and told them to stop doing that and leave.
11. During a long interval of calm and peace, a relatively small number of patriots and radicals have energetically striven to revive the controversy and the debate.
12. What appeared particularly significant and noteworthy was that the troops had finally advanced beyond the natural strategic line and had eventually crossed the river.

13. His eyes closed and he had the strange feeling of the swimmer who finds that after all the tide will eventually sweep him to his goal and his rescue.
14. Caroline began her favorite piece, but as soon as she came to the end of the music, she played more quietly and rather superbly and began to speak softly.
15. Although he had never had a stage fright, Joey felt his heart was beating now but told himself that he would make it despite everything and that he would finish his act.
16. Whenever I was home on a visit my mother and my sister would invariably remind me that despite everything they loved to talk to their nosy, elderly patients.
17. Sitting with people who were talking slowly and articulately he would sometimes draw somewhat hasty conclusions about their remarks or their life stories.
18. The lane she is blindly following mounts a gentle slope at the end of the trail and comes out on top with a fairly wide view of the land and tender grass.
19. In a few minutes that seemed like a century to him, he heard her heavy steps over the powdery and melting snow and he shut all the blinds and curtains.
20. His refined features betrayed for a moment an impression of rather bitter disgust and after a few long and agonizing minutes, he sank into reverie and oblivion.