

2. The quartermaster, purple in the face, left us without looking back.

--Isaac Babel

3. Mr. Greenleaf, looking into the distance over the near pasture, removed a package of cigarets from his shirt pocket and let one fall into his hand.

--Flannery O' Connor

4. He was going to Eton, his father's school, in the following autumn.

--D. H. Lawrence

5. The drummer saw that the barkeeper, without a sound, had taken a Winchester from beneath the bar.

--Stephen Crane

6. The car, tipped toward the edge, rolled a little.

--Eudora Welty

In the following sentence we have a medial free modifier:

The realms of day and night, two different worlds coming from two different poles, mingled during this time.

--Hermann Hesse

The notation:

1) The realms of day and night, /, mingled during this time.

2) / two different worlds coming from two different poles /

The notation of this sentence indicates that the base clause has been interrupted by material represented by the slash (/). Because only material of the first level of generality can be included in the #1 line, the second level free modifier must be omitted. Yet, the interruption must be correctly notated--hence the slash surrounded by the punctuation that set it off. The 2 / indicates that the second level modifier is a medial and read in place of the slash on line #1. No comma is present after the word "poles" because it has already been indicated after the slash.

Another Explanation:

After you have located the base clause of a sentence, you are ready to notate the levels of generality. In the previous exercises you had underlined the base clause and circled the significant commas setting off the medial modifier. The base clause with the commas is positioned on line #1 (first level of generality). The medial modifier is replaced by a slash (/). All that remains is to write the missing material (medial modifier) on the next line. This medial modifier is assigned #2 because it explains or describes the base clause. Placing a slash (/) after the #2 tells us that the words on line #2 belong where the slash appears between the commas on line #1.

Practice Exercise C

Notate the levels of generality of the following sentences.

1. John, a college freshman, went to Boston for the summer.

2. The car, an old Ford, was shaking apart.

3. Warren, a Vonnegut fan, asked an absurd question.

4. The students, discussing the movie *Future Shock*, didn't notice that the hour was over.