

English I

Summer English Assignment 2017

"The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry Sentence Structure

Your assignment is to:

- 1) Read the short story and answer the multiple choice questions
- 2) Complete the sentence structure packet

Please hand-write your answers in the spaced provided.

There will be an electronic copy posted on the Palestine High School website. Go to www.palestineschools.org. Click on Campuses and select Palestine High School.

**The assignment needs to be turned in to your English I teacher on
Wednesday, August 16.**

Please know that the summer reading assignment will go towards two test grades and two daily grades.

Anyone enrolling in school after the year has ended will need to complete this reading assignment and turn it in no later than September 5, 2017.

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One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony¹ that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing left to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description², but it certainly had that word on the look-out for the mendicancy squad³.

In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young."

The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, the letters of "Dillingham" looked blurred, as though they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D. But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking a grey fence in a grey backyard. To-morrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling - something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim.

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There was a pier-glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier-glass in an \$8 Bat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

¹ imputation of parsimony - accusation of stinginess; being greedy with money.

² beggar description - made description seem inadequate or useless.

³ in certainly...mendicancy squad - it would have been noticed by the police who arrest beggars.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out of the window someday to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she clattered out of the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: 'Mme Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds.' One Eight up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the 'Sofronie.'

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

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"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down-rippled the brown cascade.—

"Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practiced hand.

"Give it to me quick" said Della.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation - as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value - the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 78 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in

any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task dear friends - a mammoth task.

Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically.

"If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island¹ chorus girl. But what could I do - oh! what could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

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At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying-pan was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops.

Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit of saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: "Please, God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two - and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves.

~~Jim stepped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.~~

Della wriggled off the table and went for him.

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold it because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again - you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice - what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

¹Coney Island - beach and amusement park in Brooklyn, New York.

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim, laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that patent fact yet, even after the hardest mental labor.

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"

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Jim looked about the room curiously.

"You say your hair is gone?" he said, with an air almost of idleness.

"You needn't look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you - sold and gone, too. It's Christmas Eve, boy. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs of my head were numbered," she went on with a sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you. Shall I put the chops on, Jim?"

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to wake. He enfolded his Della. For ten seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction. Eight dollars a week or a million a year - what is the difference? A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer. The magi brought valuable gifts, but that was not among them. This dark assertion will be illuminated later on.

Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

"Don't make any mistake, Dell," he said, "about me. I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first."

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat.

For there lay The Combs - the set of combs, side and back, that Della had worshipped for long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise-shell, with jewelled rims - just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone.

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But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: "My hair grows so fast, Jim!"

And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, "Oh, oh!"

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

"Isn't it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You'll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

"Dell," said he, "let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while. They're too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on."

The magi, as you know, were wise men - wonderfully wise men - who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.

Vocabulary for "The Gift of the Magi"

instigates (v) urges on; stirs up

depreciate (v) to reduce in value

~~cascade (n) a small steep waterfall; anything suggesting such a waterfall~~

faltered (v) acted hesitantly; showed uncertainty

discreet (adj) careful about what one says or does

Name _____

Date _____

**"The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry
Selection Test B**

Critical Reading Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- 1. Which of the following best describes the setting of "The Gift of the Magi"?
- A. a small town in southern France in 1900
 - B. a large American city in the present
 - C. a small American town in the present
 - D. a large American city around 1905
- 2. Which of the following best describes Della's dilemma in this story?
- A. how to deal with Jim's reactions
 - B. how to get money for a gift for Jim
 - C. how to deal with her unreal expectations
 - D. how to return the watch fob chain
- 3. From which statement can you best infer how Jim and Della feel about each other?
- A. "Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim."
 - B. "If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl."
 - C. "Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two—and to be burdened with a family!"
 - D. "And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house."
- 4. Which of the following best defines an inference?
- A. a harsh critique
 - B. a logical assumption
 - C. an accurate paraphrase
 - D. an emphatic repetition
- 5. When O. Henry writes that "life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating," he is making a statement about
- A. the overall sadness of life.
 - B. Della's usually depressed state.
 - C. how often people become ill.
 - D. how women freely express emotions.
- 6. Using prior knowledge and your own experience, what can you infer about Della from the description of her in the following passage?
- "Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied."
- A. She was stingy to the point of miserliness.
 - B. By necessity, Della was frugal.
 - C. She was picky in selecting her groceries.
 - D. She resented being overcharged for food.

Name _____

Date _____

- 7. Which of the following is the best definition of situational irony?
- A. an external conflict between the two leading characters in a story
 - B. a contrast between what is expected and what actually happens
 - C. a parallel situation at the beginning of a story and at the end
 - D. a humorous scene in an otherwise predominantly serious story
- 8. From details in the story and from your prior knowledge, what inference can you make about Jim's character traits?
- A. He is conscientious and responsible.
 - B. He is fun-loving and reckless.
 - C. He is proud and arrogant.
 - D. He is shy and emotionally withdrawn.
- 9. You can infer that Jim's "peculiar expression" when he sees Della's haircut is a result of his
- A. anger with her for cutting her hair without discussing it with him first.
 - B. confusion about what makes her look so different.
 - C. realization that the combs he bought for her are useless.
 - D. loss of physical attraction to her.
- 10. What is the irony in O. Henry's description of Madame Sofronie, the hair dealer?
"Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the 'Sofronie.'"
- A. Della gets less money for her hair than she had expected.
 - B. Madame Sofronie's name leads us to expect elegance, but she looks ordinary instead.
 - C. Madame Sofronie has changed so much that Della does not recognize her.
 - D. Madame Sofronie speaks little English, so Della has trouble explaining what she wants.
- 11. Jim's reaction to Della's gift reveals that he is
- A. hot-tempered.
 - B. unappreciative.
 - C. disapproving.
 - D. forgiving.
- 12. Which of the following best explains how O. Henry foreshadows the surprise ending in the story?
- A. Della is characterized as impulsive, so readers are prepared for her selling her hair.
 - B. Jim and Della's deep love makes their selling their greatest treasures credible.
 - C. Jim has hinted many times to Della that he would appreciate a new watch fob and chain.
 - D. For some time, Della has secretly yearned to try a new hairstyle.



Sentence Structure Review

TERMS

Subject – The noun (person, place, thing, quality or idea) of the sentence that is doing the action

Verb – The action or state of being of the subject in the sentence

Independent Clause – A group of words that contains at least one subject and one verb and can stand on its own (makes sense by itself)

Dependent Clause – A group of words that contains at least one subject and one verb, but cannot stand on its own (does not make sense by itself)

TYPES OF SENTENCES

Simple Sentence – Contains one independent clause

Compound Sentence – Contains two or more independent clauses joined by either a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS) or a semicolon.

Complex Sentence – Contains an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. If the dependent clause comes first, a comma is needed to separate the two clauses.

SIMPLE SENTENCE QUIZ

Name _____

Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the information, and fill in the blanks.

1. The sentence is the basic unit of communication. One type of sentence is the simple sentence.

1. A simple sentence has _____ independent clause(s).
(How many?)

2. An independent clause always has two important parts.

2. The part that names what the sentence is about is called the _____.

3. The part that tells the action or state of being is called the _____.

3. The subject of a sentence names the person, place, thing, quality, or idea the sentence is about.

Example Sentence #1: Snow melts.

4. The subject of Example Sentence #1 is _____.

4. The verb (or predicate) of a sentence tells the action or state of being of the subject.

Example Sentence #2: Water runs.

5. The verb in Example Sentence #2 is _____.

5. The main subject is the one word that names what the sentence is about.

Example Sentence #3: The fluffy white kitten squeezed under the porch.

6. The main subject in Example Sentence #3 is _____.

SIMPLE SENTENCE QUIZ (Continued)

Name _____

- The complete verb includes the main verb (that shows the action) and any helping verbs.

Example Sentence #4: The children are playing with a ball.

7. The complete verb in this sentence is _____.

- The subject generally comes before the verb in a simple sentence.

Example Sentence #5: The rain fell gently.

8. The verb of Example Sentence #5 is _____.

9. The subject comes before the verb of this sentence.
The subject in Example Sentence #5 is _____.

- The subject can come after the verb in a simple sentence.

Example Sentence #6: Here are the shoes.

10. The verb of Example Sentence #6 is _____.

11. The subject comes after the verb of this sentence.
The subject in Example Sentence #6 is _____.

- The subject can come between the helping verb and the main verb in a simple sentence.

Example Sentence #7: Is Candy coming?

12. The complete verb of Example Sentence #7 is _____.

13. The subject of Example Sentence #7 is _____.

SIMPLE SENTENCE QUIZ (Continued)

Name _____

- A simple sentence may have a compound subject. A compound subject means that there is more than one subject in the sentence.

Matt and James are the two subjects that make up the compound subject in this sentence: ^S *Matt* and ^S *James* *dived into the water.*

Mark each of the main subjects in these sentences with an "S."

| | |
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14. The dogs and cats ran in circles.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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15. Scott, Bill, and Jeff went to the beach.

| | |
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16. The old man and his grandson took a walk together.

- A simple sentence may also have a compound verb. A compound verb means that there is more than one verb in the sentence.

Dived and jumped are the two verbs that comprise the compound verb in this sentence: ^V *Steve* ^V *dived and jumped* *into the water.*

Mark each of the verbs in these sentences with a "V."

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17. The dogs barked and yelped all night.

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18. Jan read and graded the quizzes.

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19. The girl gulped her breakfast and dashed to school.

- A simple sentence can have a compound subject and a compound verb.

For example, in the following sentence there are two subjects (marked with an "S") and two verbs (marked with a "V"):

^S *The men* and ^S *women* ^V *took their places* and ^V *waited for the signal to begin.*

Mark each main subject in this sentence with an "S" and each verb with a "V."

| | |
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20. The witches and their black cats surrounded the kettle and looked at the sky.

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COMPOUND SENTENCE QUIZ

Name _____

Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the information, and fill in the blanks.

1 The sentence is a basic unit of communication.

1. A simple sentence has _____ independent clause(s).
(How many?)

2. A compound sentence has _____ or more independent clauses.
(How many?)

3 An independent clause always has two important parts.

3. The part that names the person, place, thing, quality, or idea that the sentence is about is called the _____.

4. The part that shows the action or state of being is called the _____.

4 A compound sentence contains more than one independent clause.

Example Sentence #1: Helen helped, but Mary refused.

The two independent clauses in Example Sentence #1 are:

5. _____

6. _____

Example Sentence #2: Lee teaches math, and his wife teaches history.

5 The two independent clauses in Example Sentence #2 are:

7. _____

8. _____

6 Independent clauses in compound sentences can be joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction. The most common coordinating conjunctions are for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so.

Put the best conjunction in each of the following sentences. (Use each conjunction one time.)

9. I like Bill, _____ sometimes he is too loud.

10. The cat and dog raced around the yard, _____ they hated each other.

COMPOUND SENTENCE QUIZ (Continued)

Name _____

- 11. The food got cold, _____ they heated it up.
- 12. Mrs. Planter went to the butcher shop, _____ she bought a sirloin steak.
- 13. The milk was not on the counter, _____ was it on the table.
- 14. Put that back, _____ I will call the cops.
- 15. She seems like a nice person, _____ she has no friends.

- When two independent clauses in a compound sentence are joined by a coordinating conjunction, a comma is usually placed right before the conjunction.

Put a comma in the proper place in each of the following sentences:

- 16. The clerk rang up the sale and his helper packed the groceries.
- 17. The children played tag but they did not include Steven.
- 18. By mistake, the ice man turned down the freezer so all the ice melted.
- 19. I invited Kathy for she is my best friend.

- Independent clauses may also be joined by a semicolon (;) when there is no coordinating conjunction.

Put a semicolon between the independent clauses in each of the following sentences:

- 20. Dr. Lee teaches math his wife teaches history.
- 21. The salmon swam upstream they were headed for their home.
- 22. Potatoes and beans were served the taste was terrible.
- 23. The snow finally is melting it has been on the ground for two weeks.

- An independent clause must be able to stand alone. Do not mistake a simple sentence with compound subjects and/or compound verbs for a compound sentence.

Put a comma in the proper place in each sentence that has two independent clauses. Do not add a comma to sentences that have only one independent clause.

- 24. The water rose and then receded.
- 25. The bird rose rapidly and headed west.
- 26. The tree fell and the lumberjack stripped the branches from its trunk.
- 27. Her dress was green and her gloves were white.
- 28. She wore a green dress and white gloves.
- 29. The Angels got creamed by the Devils for the Devils are a better team.
- 30. The Angels played the Devils and lost.

COMPLEX SENTENCE QUIZ

Name _____

Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the information, and fill in the blanks.

- You have learned about three types of sentences.

1. Simple sentences have _____ independent clause(s).
(How many?)

2. Compound sentences have _____ or more independent clauses.
(How many?)

- Complex sentences have:

3. _____ independent clause(s) and
(How many?)

4. _____ or more dependent clause(s).
(How many?)

- You have learned about two types of clauses:

5. _____ clauses can stand alone.

6. _____ clauses cannot stand alone.

- Many sentences have clauses that cannot stand alone.

Example Sentence #1: Kathy stayed home because she had a fever.

7. The clause that cannot stand alone in Example Sentence #1 is

Example Sentence #2: If the weather is nice, Sally likes to jog.

8. The clause that cannot stand alone in Example Sentence #2 is

- Remember that a clause is any group of words having a subject and a verb.

9. Therefore, even a dependent clause has a _____
and a _____.

COMPLEX SENTENCE QUIZ (Continued)

Name _____

Example Sentence #3: I will sleep until the alarm rings.

10. The dependent clause in Example Sentence #3 is _____

11. The verb in the dependent clause in Example Sentence #3 is _____
12. The main subject of the dependent clause in Example Sentence #3 is _____

- Do not confuse an introductory group of words in a sentence like the one in Example Sentence #4 for a dependent clause.

Example Sentence #4: While running quickly, Paul got a cramp.

13. The first group of words in Example Sentence #4 is not a dependent clause because it does not have a _____

- A dependent clause normally starts with a word that shows its relationship to the independent clause. These words are called subordinating conjunctions.

If, because, although, and unless are examples of subordinating conjunctions.

Example Sentence #5: I love to cook although it takes time.

14. The subordinating conjunction in Example Sentence #5 is _____

Example Sentence #6: The girls won't come unless you call them.

15. In Example Sentence #6, unless is the _____

16. In Example Sentence #6, unless shows the relationship between
the _____ clause and the
_____ clause.

COMPLEX SENTENCE QUIZ (Continued)

Name _____

Example Sentence #7: The turkey is not thawed because we forgot to take it out of the freezer.

17. The subordinating conjunction in Example Sentence #7 is _____.

18. The subordinating conjunction shows the _____ between the dependent clause and the independent clause.

- Remember, a complex sentence has one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

In the following sentences, underline the independent clause with two lines and the dependent clause with one line.

19. I will go to the store after I make a shopping list.

20. When he eats his food, the dog gets meat all over his face.

21. Since she is my closest friend, I will buy something special for her birthday.

- If the dependent clause comes before the independent clause, use a comma to separate the two clauses. (D,I)

No comma is needed if the dependent clause comes after the independent clause. (ID)

Put commas where they are required in the sentences below. If a sentence does not need a comma, leave it as it is.

22. My dad will be happy if I get good grades this semester.

23. Since Jason is a good student he will probably get all As.

24. I never would have believed it if I had not seen it.

25. When you have decided please let me know.

26. The car was fine before I had the wreck.

27. After they went skating the guys went out for a pizza.

28. Once the work was done the four teenagers went for a ride.

