**S-V SPLIT Note-Taking Guide *(Adding Detail and Dazzle)***

*Authors vary where they put tools, those important sentence parts that add dazzle and detail to sentences. Those tools—whether words, phrases, or dependent clauses—can be moved around within sentences.*

*With sentences, you have three choices for placing sentence parts: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Good writers use all three places. You can, too.*

**THE S-V SPLIT**

*Sometimes, authors use tools in the middle of the sentence—between a subject and its verb (predicate)—because it’s the best place for the information.*

EX.

A trail of blook followed him.

A trail of blood, **smeared and blotted**, followed him.

William H. Armstrong*, Sounder*

EX.

The first floor was where the rats lived.

The first floor, **because it was closest to the garbage in the empty lot,** was where the rats lived.

Walter Dean Myers, *Motown and Didi*

**An S-V Split is any tool between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. S-V Splits can be**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**COMBINING SENTENCES**

**Two Sentences**

The thermometer on the patio did climb to over a hundred degrees.

The thermometer was hanging there in the direct sun.

**One Sentence with S-V Split**

The thermometer on the patio, hanging there in the direct sun, did climb to over a hundred degrees.

Edward Bloor, *Tangerine*

STUDENT ACTIVITY

*Combine each pair of sentences by making the underlined part an S-V split for the other sentence. The result is the sentence the author wrote—one sentence instead of two to say the same thing! Don’t forget the commas before and after the S-V Split.*

**WORDS**

1. A woman of fifty or so with frizzy gray hair came toward them down the dark hall. She was plump. -Katherine Paterson, *Park’s Quest*

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2. In the moonlight, these three trains confirmed my fears that traffic was not maintained by night on this part of the line. The trains were motionless.

-Winston Churchill, “I Escape from the Boers*”*

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3. Spitz left the pack and cut across a narrow neck of land where the creek made a long bend around. Spitz was cold and calculating.

-Jack London, *Call of the Wild*

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4. The Sunday clothing of the two shoeless boys hung loosely upon their frail frames. The clothing was patched and worn.

-Mildred D. Taylor, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

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5. Every year, this aged old hat sorted new students into the four Hogwarts houses. The hat was patched, frayed, and dirty**.**

-J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

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**PHRASES**

6. Anna turned to face me and nodded slightly. Anna was one of my best friends.

-Melina Marchetta, *Looking for Alibrandi*

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7. Two boys were coming across the compound. The boys were each carrying a shovel.

-Louis Sachar, *Holes*

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8. The boy picked out a blurred shape in the dark. The boy had been trained in night-sight when the lantern was dimmed so as not to alert the wood’s creatures.

-William H. Armstrong, *Sounder*

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9. The meat hung in the smoke-house. The meat had been dry-cured for the feeding of the dogs.

-Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, *The Yearling*

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10. Lockhart was waving for silence. He was wearing lurid pink robes to match the decorations.

-J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

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**CLAUSES**

11. the truck drivers were furious. Their furor happened when they heard that Maxie Hammerman had been released from prison.

-Jean Merrill, *The Pushcart War*

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12. The bricks of the chimney provided a point of reference for the rest of the house. Those were the bricks which had collapsed in a charred heap.

-Suzanne Collins, *Mockingjay*

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13. George had a little mental handicap radio in his ear. This happened although his intelligence was above normal.

-Kurt Vonnegut, Jr, “Harriosn Bergeron”

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14. Little Jon should have seen the hole, but his attention was on the stars. It was Little Jon whose eyes were quicker than most.

-Alexander Key, *The Forgotten Door*

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**EXPANDING SENTENCES**

*As you’ve seen, there is more than one way to add an S-V split to a sentence.*

The sheep, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, turned now to stare at him.

**WORD:** The sheep, startled, turned now to stare at him.

**PHRASE:** The sheep, a heard of twenty or so, turned now to stare at him.

**CLAUSE:** The sheep, which had just been unloaded from the transport truck from the farm, turned now to stare at him.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

*For each sentence add a* **word***, then a* **phrase**, *then a* **dependent clause***.*

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| 1. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | One of the dogs,\_\_\_, had disappeared.  Fred Gipson, *Old Yeller* |
| 2. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Sandy and Dennis,\_\_\_, were disgusted.  Madeleine L’Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time* |
| 3. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | The canoe,\_\_\_,twisted and shifted in the rushing waters.  Armstrong Sperry, *Call It Courage* |
| 4. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Then the great spider,\_\_\_,came from behind him and came at him.  J. R. R. Tolkein, *The Hobbit* |
| 5. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Mrs. Rachel,\_\_\_,took mental note of everything that was on that table.  L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gablest* |
| 6. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | One of the rocks,\_\_\_,jutted out of the water almost at the boat’s side.  Franklin W. Dixon, *The Hardy Boys: The House on the Cliff* |
| 7. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Carson Drew,\_\_\_,looked at his daughter.  Carolyn Keene, *Nancy Drew: The Bungalow Mystery* |
| 8. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Sometimes in the night, the ranch people,\_\_\_,heard a roar of hoofs go by.  John Steinbeck, *The Red Pony* |
| 9. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Her face,\_\_\_,was round and thick, and her eyes were like two immense eggs stuck into a white mess of bread dough.  Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles* |