**TOOL PLACES Note-Taking Guide (CLOSER)**

*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 CLOSER**

*Everybody likes a good ending: for example, a happy event at the end of a story, a sunset at the end of the day, a scrumptious dessert at the end of a meal. Sometimes authors use tools at the end of a sentence because that’s the best place for a lasting impression. Take a look at the sentences without tools at the end, and then compare them to sentences with tools at the end called closers because they come at the closing of the sentence:*

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*

**A closer is any tool at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a sentence. Closers can be**

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

**COMBINING SENTENCES**

**Two Sentences**

Flung across her shoulder was her magician’s bag. It was marked with the symbol of the lion goddess.

**One Sentence with Closer**

Flung across her shoulder was her magician’s bag, marked with the symbol of the lion goddess.

Rick Riordan, *The Throne of Fire*

STUDENT ACTIVITY

*Combine each pair of sentences by making the underlined part a closer 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 the closer.*

**WORDS**

1. I jumped to my feet. I was thunderstruck.

-Antoine de Saint-Exupery, *The Little Prince*

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2. Abruptly, with a metallic scraping shriek, the car fell from the tyrannosaur’s jaws. This happened sickeningly.

-Michael Crichton, *Jurassic Park*

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3. Blue Elk went out. He was hurt and angry.

-Hal Borland, *When the Legends Die*

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4. On the fog comes. It was silent and steady and flat.

-Suzanne Collins, *Catching Fire*

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5. A stillness hovered in the high air. The stillness was soft, quiet**.**

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

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**PHRASES**

6. It was night now. The night was bright with moon fragment and stars and northern glow.

-Paul Gallico, *The Snow Goose*

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7. My poem circles back on itself. A poem does this while eating its own tail and making you guess what it means.

-Fanny Billingsley, *Chime*

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8. Their heads were covered with wigs of European hair. The wigs were curled in the latest fashion, and bound with ropes of pearls, rubies, and diamonds.

-Margaret Landon, *Anna and the King of Siam*

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9. The beagle came barreling toward me. It came toward me with legs going lickety-split, long ears flopping, tail sticking up like a flagpole.

-Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, *Shiloh*

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10. My heart flutters. My heart is a large bird trapped in my chest.

-Lisa Luedeke, *Smashed*

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**CLAUSES**

11. The thunder and lightning were frightening. This happened while the rain came in gusts and torrents.

-Kate Shelley, “Iowa Heroine”

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12. Dicey was up and dressed, washed and fed, and out the door, with the day’s work outlined in her head. Dicey did all of that before anyone else stirred in the silent house.

-Cynthia Voigt, *Seventeen Against the Dealer*

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13. Around her neck was a thick silver chain. It was a chain on which hung a dark red pendant the size of a baby’s fist.

-Cassandra Clare, Jr, *City of Bones*

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14. This girl suffered through Brownies with me. She was the one who taught me how to swim, who understood about my parents, who didn’t make fun of my bedroom.

-Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak*

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**EXPANDING SENTENCES**

*As you’ve seen, there is more than one way to add a closer to a sentence.*

There were three men, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**WORD:** There were three men, thrilled.

**PHRASE:** There were three men, each the same size and height and build.

**CLAUSE:** There were there men, who came crashing through the opening in the roof caused by the mortar fire from their subatomic weapons.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

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

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| 1. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Frankie looked at his sister,\_\_\_.  Kelly Barnhill, *The Mostly True Story of Jack* |
| 2. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | She also had to watch our three chickens,\_\_\_.  Laurence Yep, *Dragonwings* |
| 3. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Lyra darted to the oak wardrobe, opened it, and hid inside,\_\_\_\_.  Philip Pullman, *The Golden Compass* |
| 4. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Sometimes he cried, but always quietly,\_\_\_.  Kristin Cashore, *Fire* |
| 5. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | She would always kiss us, then stand in the doorway after turning off the light,\_\_\_.  Sarah Dessen, *Dreamland* |
| 6. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | As I created the ridge, I looked back to see Harry still down by the water’s edge,\_\_\_.  Carrie Ryan, *The Forest of Hands and Teeth* |
| 7. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Down a long road through the woods, a little boy trudged to school,\_\_\_.  Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Farmer Boy* |
| 8. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Will clutched his brother’s arm,\_\_\_.  Susan Cooper, *The Dark Is Rising* |
| 9. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | When he was three, he had had two illnesses,\_\_\_.  Betsy Byars, *The Summer of the Swans* |
| 10. **WORD**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **PHRASE:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **CLAUSE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | The old soldier was waiting for him,\_\_\_.  Kate DiCamillo, *The Magician’s Elephant* |