Sentence Practice 3

Combine the two short sentences by making the second sentence into a phrase or clause that can be moved in front of the underlined subject. Punctuate appropriately, and avoid dangling modifiers.

Example: The chicken was injured by a speeding truck. The chicken was crossing the road.

Answer: While crossing the road, the chicken was injured by a speeding truck.

1. The cat seemed nervous. The cat heard the panting of a dog.

2. We left the party early. We were disgusted by the obnoxious behavior of the host.

3. Carlos easily jumped over the barricade. Carlos was in excellent shape.

4. The chicken looked both ways. The chicken was concerned about the heavy traffic.

5. The chicken decided never to cross the road again. The chicken was frightened by her near-death experience.

Editing Practice

CORRECTED SENTENCES APPEAR ON PAGE 467.

Correct all errors in the following paragraphs using the first correction as a model. The number in parentheses at the end of each paragraph indicates how many errors you should find.

Last summer I flew from Seattle to New York. Not having flown for a while, the trip was quite an eye-opener. On the positive side, it really is much easier than it used to be to compare rates and schedules. Spending a few minutes (well, quite a few minutes actually) on the computer, the best choice was obvious. That's it for the good news. Everything else was downhill from there. Knowing that I needed to get to the airport in plenty of time, my plan was to get there an hour and a half before departure
time. Even then, I very nearly missed my flight. What I hadn’t bargained on was how much longer it would take to get through security. Taking off my coat, jacket, and shoes and unpacking my laptop was awkward enough. The real problem was trying to get my shoes back on while juggling all my clothes and my computer. Balancing on one foot and then the other, my shoes proved almost impossible to wedge onto my feet one-handed. (3)

The flight itself was uneventful, though not very pleasant. Seated in the middle seat, it seemed like the flight lasted forever. One thing that had changed since the last time I have flown was the lack of leg room. Even being of only average height, my legs did not fit into the space. I thought that was pretty bad; then the person in front of me reclined his seat to the maximum. The top of his seat was about 12 inches from my face. I quickly discovered that I could not read. Holding my book so close to my face, my eyes could not focus on the page. Nevertheless, I lived to tell the tale and even survived the return flight. (3)

Annoyed by the swarm of students trying to buy textbooks, Jacquita was not having a good day. It was not a good day for Jacquita. While trying to register for classes earlier in the week, a computer glitch occurred. As a result, she had to register for new classes. Unable to take the classes she had originally wanted, replacements were necessary, and Jacquita had to return her old books to buy new ones. (2)