

NAPLAN Big-Dog Syntax Drills

100 Juicy Sentences for Year 7

Advanced Grammar & Syntax Mastery

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Introduction

Welcome to the Big-Dog Syntax Drills! These 100 challenging exercises are specifically designed for Year 7 students preparing for NAPLAN assessments. Each drill focuses on advanced grammatical structures and sophisticated sentence construction using British spelling conventions throughout.

The exercises progress from moderately challenging to exceptionally demanding, ensuring students develop the analytical and syntactic skills required for NAPLAN success.

How to Use This Book

- Work through each section systematically
- Attempt all exercises before checking answers
- Pay close attention to British spelling conventions
- Use the detailed explanations to understand complex concepts
- Challenge yourself with the extension activities

Section 1: Complex Compound Sentences (Drills 1-10)

Drill 1: Multi-Clause Analysis 🐕🐕

Sentence: The students organised their revision meticulously, yet many still felt anxious about the examination, although their preparation had been thorough and comprehensive.

Task: Identify the main clauses, subordinate clauses, and coordinating conjunctions. Rewrite as three simple sentences.

Drill 2: Sophisticated Connectors 🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The scientific method requires careful observation; furthermore, it demands rigorous analysis, whilst researchers must remain objective throughout their investigations.

Task: Replace the connecting words with alternatives that maintain the same logical relationships.

Drill 3: Parallel Structure Challenge 🐾🐾🐾

Sentence: The athlete trained rigorously, competed fearlessly, but was lacking confidence during the final race.

Task: Correct the parallel structure error and explain why your revision improves the sentence.

Drill 4: Advanced Comma Usage 🐾🐾🐾

Sentence: The conference which was held in Melbourne attracted delegates from across Australia New Zealand and several Pacific nations.

Task: Add all necessary commas and explain each comma rule applied.

Drill 5: Correlative Conjunction Mastery 🐾🐾🐾🐾

Sentence: Not only did the expedition discover new species, but they also documented previously unknown ecosystems.

Task: Identify the error in correlative conjunction usage and provide the correction with explanation.

Drill 6: Complex Sentence Synthesis 🐾🐾🐾🐾

Sentences: The bushfire spread rapidly. The wind was strong. The vegetation was dry. Emergency services responded immediately.

Task: Combine into one sophisticated compound sentence using at least two different types of conjunctions.

Drill 7: Elliptical Construction 🐾🐾🐾🐾

Sentence: Sarah studied mathematics diligently, and Emma studied mathematics diligently too.

Task: Rewrite using elliptical construction to eliminate unnecessary repetition whilst maintaining clarity.

Drill 8: Compound-Complex Integration 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Sentence: Although the technology was revolutionary the implementation proved challenging and many organisations hesitated before they decided to adopt the new system.

Task: Add proper punctuation and identify all clause types within this compound-complex structure.

Drill 9: Advanced Transitions 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The research was thorough; _____, the conclusions were questionable, _____ the methodology appeared sound.

Task: Fill the blanks with sophisticated transitional expressions that create logical flow.

Drill 10: Stylistic Variation Challenge 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Original: The weather was terrible. The match was cancelled. The fans were disappointed. The players were relieved.

Task: Create three different compound sentence versions, each emphasising a different aspect of the situation.

Answer Key: Section 1

Drill 1: Main clauses: "The students organised their revision meticulously," "many still felt anxious about the examination." Subordinate clause: "although their preparation had been thorough and comprehensive." Coordinating conjunction: "yet." Simple sentences: 1) The students organised their revision meticulously. 2) Many still felt anxious about the examination. 3) Their preparation had been thorough and comprehensive.

Drill 2: Possible alternatives: "The scientific method requires careful observation; moreover/additionally, it demands rigorous analysis, while/whereas researchers must remain objective throughout their investigations."

Drill 3: Corrected: "The athlete trained rigorously, competed fearlessly, but lacked confidence during the final race." The error was mixing a participle phrase with parallel verbs.

Drill 4: "The conference, which was held in Melbourne, attracted delegates from across Australia, New Zealand, and several Pacific nations." Commas used for: non-restrictive clause and series.

Drill 5: Error: Subject-verb disagreement after "but also." Correction: "Not only did the expedition discover new species, but it also documented previously unknown ecosystems."

Drill 6: Sample: "The bushfire spread rapidly because the wind was strong and the vegetation was dry, yet emergency services responded immediately."

Drill 7: "Sarah studied mathematics diligently, and Emma did too." (Elliptical construction eliminates repeated elements.)

Drill 8: "Although the technology was revolutionary, the implementation proved challenging, and many organisations hesitated before they decided to adopt the new system." Clauses: 1 subordinate, 2 independent.

Drill 9: Sample: "however/nevertheless" and "although/even though"

Drill 10: Sample variations: 1) "Because the weather was terrible, the match was cancelled, disappointing fans but relieving players." 2) "The weather was terrible, so the match was cancelled; consequently, fans were disappointed while players felt relieved." 3) "Although the terrible weather cancelled the match and disappointed fans, the players were relieved."

Section 2: Subordinate Clause Mastery (Drills 11-20)

Drill 11: Relative Clause Precision 🐕🐕

Sentence: The scientist who discoveries revolutionised medicine received international recognition.

Task: Identify and correct the relative pronoun error, explaining your choice.

Drill 12: Adverbial Clause Variety 🐕🐕🐕

Base sentence: The team celebrated their victory.

Task: Add five different types of adverbial clauses (time, place, reason, condition, manner) to create five distinct complex sentences.

Drill 13: Noun Clause Integration 🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The discovery was significant. This became apparent immediately.

Task: Combine using a noun clause as the subject of the second sentence.

Drill 14: Dangling Modifier Elimination 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: Walking through the forest, several rare birds were observed by the researchers.

Task: Correct the dangling modifier and provide two different revision options.

Drill 15: Restrictive vs Non-Restrictive 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: Students who study regularly achieve better results than those who don't.

Task: Rewrite with a non-restrictive clause and explain how the meaning changes.

Drill 16: Embedded Clause Complexity 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The book that the author who won the prize wrote became a bestseller.

Task: Revise to eliminate awkward embedding whilst preserving all information.

Drill 17: Conditional Clause Sophistication 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Task: Create four different conditional sentences about environmental conservation: zero, first, second, and third conditional.

Drill 18: Concessive Clause Mastery 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Simple sentences: The expedition was dangerous. The team proceeded with their plans.

Task: Combine using three different concessive conjunctions, noting subtle meaning differences.

Drill 19: Reduced Clause Transformation 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: After the students had completed their research, they began writing their reports.

Task: Transform to a reduced adverbial clause and explain when this technique is appropriate.

Drill 20: Clause Function Analysis 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: What surprised everyone was that the usually quiet student delivered such an eloquent speech that the audience remained silent long after she had finished speaking.

Task: Identify all clauses and their specific grammatical functions within the sentence.

Answer Key: Section 2

Drill 11: "The scientist whose discoveries revolutionised medicine received international recognition."
(‘Whose’ shows possession; ‘who’ cannot be followed directly by a noun.)

Drill 12: Sample answers: 1) Time: "After they scored the winning goal, the team celebrated their victory." 2) Place: "The team celebrated their victory where they had trained so hard." 3) Reason: "The team celebrated their victory because they had worked tirelessly." 4) Condition: "If they maintained this performance, the team would celebrate their victory." 5) Manner: "The team celebrated their victory as if they had won the championship."

Drill 13: "That the discovery was significant became apparent immediately." (Noun clause as subject)

Drill 14: Revisions: 1) "Walking through the forest, the researchers observed several rare birds." 2) "While walking through the forest, several rare birds were observed by the researchers."

Drill 15: "Students, who study regularly, achieve better results than those who don't." This suggests ALL students study regularly, changing the meaning significantly.

Drill 16: "The book written by the prize-winning author became a bestseller." or "The author who won the prize wrote a book that became a bestseller."

Drill 17: Samples: Zero: "If we recycle, we reduce waste." First: "If we implement renewable energy, we will reduce emissions." Second: "If governments acted decisively, they would prevent climate disasters." Third: "If we had protected forests earlier, many species would not have become extinct."

Drill 18: 1) "Although the expedition was dangerous, the team proceeded." 2) "Despite the expedition being dangerous, the team proceeded." 3) "Even though the expedition was dangerous, the team proceeded." Each has slightly different emphasis.

Drill 19: "After completing their research, the students began writing their reports." Appropriate when subjects are the same and action is completed.

Drill 20: "What surprised everyone" (noun clause, subject); "was" (main verb); "that the usually quiet student delivered such an eloquent speech" (noun clause, predicate nominative); "that the audience remained silent" (adverbial clause of result); "after she had finished speaking" (adverbial clause of time).

Section 3: Passive Voice Transformations (Drills 21-30)

Drill 21: Basic Active to Passive 🐶🐶

Sentence: The researchers conducted extensive experiments to verify their hypothesis.

Task: Transform to passive voice, maintaining the same tense and meaning.

Drill 22: Complex Passive Construction 🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: Someone had already discovered the ancient ruins before the official expedition arrived.

Task: Convert to passive voice and identify the specific passive construction used.

Drill 23: Passive with Modal Verbs 🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: The government should implement new environmental policies immediately.

Task: Transform to passive voice, explaining why passive might be preferred in formal contexts.

Drill 24: Agent Omission Decision 🐶🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: The committee will announce the scholarship recipients next week.

Task: Write both versions (with and without agent) and explain when each would be appropriate.

Drill 25: Inappropriate Passive Correction 🐶🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: Mistakes were made by the student during the examination.

Task: Explain why active voice would be better here and provide the revision.

Drill 26: Double Object Passive 🐶🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: The teacher gave the students detailed feedback on their essays.

Task: Create two different passive versions, focusing on different objects.

Drill 27: Passive Infinitive Structures 🐶🐶🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: They expect someone to solve this mathematical problem soon.

Task: Transform using a passive infinitive structure with appropriate subject.

Drill 28: Continuous Passive Forms 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: Scientists are currently studying the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems.

Task: Convert to passive voice and discuss when continuous passive is used effectively.

Drill 29: Passive Voice in Scientific Writing 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Text: We observed significant changes in the sample. We recorded all measurements carefully. We analysed the data using statistical software.

Task: Rewrite in academic passive style, explaining the advantages in scientific contexts.

Drill 30: Mixed Voice Paragraph 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Task: Write a paragraph about a historical discovery using both active and passive voice appropriately. Include at least four sentences with clear justification for voice choice.

Answer Key: Section 3

Drill 21: "Extensive experiments were conducted by the researchers to verify their hypothesis." (Simple past passive)

Drill 22: "The ancient ruins had already been discovered before the official expedition arrived." (Past perfect passive)

Drill 23: "New environmental policies should be implemented immediately by the government." Passive is preferred in formal writing to emphasise the action rather than the actor.

Drill 24: With agent: "The scholarship recipients will be announced by the committee next week." Without agent: "The scholarship recipients will be announced next week." Omit agent when it's obvious or unimportant.

Drill 25: Active is better: "The student made mistakes during the examination." Passive here seems to avoid responsibility inappropriately.

Drill 26: Version 1: "The students were given detailed feedback on their essays." Version 2: "Detailed feedback was given to the students on their essays."

Drill 27: "This mathematical problem is expected to be solved soon." (Passive infinitive structure)

Drill 28: "The effects of climate change on marine ecosystems are currently being studied by scientists."
Used for ongoing research or processes.

Drill 29: "Significant changes were observed in the sample. All measurements were recorded carefully. The data were analysed using statistical software." Removes personal reference, emphasises objectivity.

Drill 30: Sample: "Penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928. (Passive: emphasises discovery) Fleming was working in his laboratory when he noticed something unusual. (Active: emphasises Fleming's action) The mould had contaminated his bacterial cultures. (Active: natural subject) However, this contamination was soon recognised as a breakthrough. (Passive: emphasises significance over discoverer)"

Section 4: Advanced Modifiers (Drills 31-40)

Drill 31: Participial Phrase Placement 🐕🐕

Sentence: Running through the park the beautiful gardens were admired by Sarah.

Task: Correct the misplaced participial phrase and explain the error.

Drill 32: Absolute Construction 🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: The storm passed. The sailors continued their journey.

Task: Combine using an absolute construction (nominative absolute).

Drill 33: Appositive Sophistication 🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: Dr. Smith is a renowned physicist. She delivered yesterday's lecture.

Task: Combine using both restrictive and non-restrictive appositives, noting the difference.

Drill 34: Prepositional Phrase Precision 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The student with the red backpack in the library studying chemistry received an award.

Task: Rewrite to eliminate ambiguous prepositional phrase relationships.

Drill 35: Infinitive Phrase Functions 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Task: Create five sentences using infinitive phrases as: subject, direct object, predicate nominative, adjective, and adverb.

Drill 36: Gerund vs Participle Distinction 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: 1) "Swimming is excellent exercise." 2) "The swimming pool was crowded." 3) "Swimming rapidly, the athlete won the race."

Task: Identify whether each -ing word is a gerund or participle and explain its function.

Drill 37: Squinting Modifier Elimination 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: Students who study frequently achieve better results.

Task: Identify the ambiguity and provide two different revisions with distinct meanings.

Drill 38: Comparative and Superlative Precision 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: This solution is more preferable than the previous one, and it's the most unique approach we've considered.

Task: Correct the logical errors in comparison and explain the rules violated.

Drill 39: Adverbial Modifier Placement 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The actor only performed in two plays last year.

Task: Demonstrate how adverb placement changes meaning by providing three different versions.

Drill 40: Complex Modifier Stacking 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Task: Write a sentence containing: a participial phrase, a prepositional phrase, an appositive, and a relative clause. Ensure clarity despite complexity.

Answer Key: Section 4

Drill 31: "Running through the park, Sarah admired the beautiful gardens." The participial phrase must modify the subject immediately following it.

Drill 32: "The storm having passed, the sailors continued their journey." or "With the storm passed, the sailors continued their journey."

Drill 33: Non-restrictive: "Dr. Smith, a renowned physicist, delivered yesterday's lecture." Restrictive: "The renowned physicist Dr. Smith delivered yesterday's lecture." Non-restrictive adds extra information; restrictive identifies specifically.

Drill 34: "The student with the red backpack, who was studying chemistry in the library, received an award." Clear modification relationships established.

Drill 35: Subject: "To succeed requires dedication." Direct object: "She wanted to travel." Predicate nominative: "Her goal was to excel." Adjective: "The book to read is here." Adverb: "She studied to improve."

Drill 36: 1) Gerund (subject of sentence). 2) Participle (adjective modifying pool). 3) Participle (adverbial phrase modifying athlete).

Drill 37: Ambiguity: Does "frequently" modify "study" or "achieve"? Revision 1: "Students who study frequently achieve better results." Revision 2: "Students who study achieve better results frequently."

Drill 38: "This solution is preferable to the previous one, and it's the most unusual approach we've considered." ('Preferable' is already comparative; 'unique' cannot be qualified by degree.)

Drill 39: 1) "Only the actor performed in two plays last year." (no one else) 2) "The actor only performed in two plays last year." (didn't direct/write) 3) "The actor performed in only two plays last year." (not more than two)

Drill 40: Sample: "Professor Wilson, the department head, speaking passionately about climate change, addressed students who had gathered in the auditorium with great enthusiasm."

Section 5: Parallel Structure Challenges (Drills 41-50)

Drill 41: Series Parallelism 🐶🐶

Sentence: The candidate promised to reduce taxes, creating more jobs, and that he would improve education.

Task: Correct the parallel structure errors in this series.

Drill 42: Correlative Conjunction Alignment 🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: Either you can complete the assignment tonight, or waiting until tomorrow.

Task: Correct the correlative conjunction structure and explain the rule.

Drill 43: Comparison Parallelism 🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: Reading fiction is more enjoyable than to read non-fiction.

Task: Fix the parallel structure and provide an alternative correct version.

Drill 44: Complex List Parallelism 🐶🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: The research methodology included conducting interviews, the distribution of surveys, and they analysed existing data.

Task: Revise for parallel structure using three different approaches (gerunds, nouns, verbs).

Drill 45: Parallel Clauses 🐶🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: What she said was important, and what she didn't say was revealing, but the way she said it was most significant.

Task: Analyse the parallel structure and improve the sentence's rhythm and flow.

Drill 46: Faulty Parallelism Detection 🐶🐶🐶🐶

Paragraph: The new policy aims to increase efficiency, reducing costs, and customer satisfaction will improve. Implementation requires training staff, updating systems, and that we revise procedures.

Task: Identify all parallel structure errors and provide corrections.

Drill 47: Advanced Correlatives 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Task: Create sentences using these correlative pairs correctly: not only...but also, neither...nor, whether...or, as...as.

Drill 48: Parallel Phrases in Complex Sentences 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Sentence: Although the experiment was designed carefully, conducted thoroughly, and the results were analysed properly, the conclusions remained questionable.

Task: Correct the parallel structure within the subordinate clause.

Drill 49: Stylistic Parallelism 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Task: Write a persuasive paragraph about environmental protection using parallel structure for rhetorical effect. Include at least three examples of different types of parallelism.

Drill 50: Parallelism in Academic Writing 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Sentence: The study's objectives were identifying patterns, to analyse trends, and the comparison of different methodologies.

Task: Revise for academic style with proper parallel structure, then explain why parallelism is crucial in formal writing.

Answer Key: Section 5

Drill 41: "The candidate promised to reduce taxes, to create more jobs, and to improve education." (All infinitive phrases)

Drill 42: "Either you can complete the assignment tonight, or you can wait until tomorrow." Elements after correlatives must be parallel.

Drill 43: "Reading fiction is more enjoyable than reading non-fiction." Alternative: "To read fiction is more enjoyable than to read non-fiction."

Drill 44: Gerunds: "conducting interviews, distributing surveys, and analysing existing data." Nouns: "interviews, surveys, and data analysis." Verbs: "conducted interviews, distributed surveys, and analysed

existing data."

Drill 45: Better flow: "What she said was important, what she didn't say was revealing, but how she said it was most significant." (Parallel 'what/what/how' structure)

Drill 46: "The new policy aims to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and improve customer satisfaction. Implementation requires training staff, updating systems, and revising procedures."

Drill 47: "Not only did she excel academically, but she also demonstrated leadership." "The solution is neither practical nor economical." "We must decide whether to proceed or to abandon the project." "She is as talented as she is dedicated."

Drill 48: "Although the experiment was designed carefully, conducted thoroughly, and analysed properly, the conclusions remained questionable."

Drill 49: Sample: "We must protect our environment through reducing consumption, recycling materials, and respecting natural resources. The choice is ours: we can act decisively, procrastinate dangerously, or ignore completely. To preserve, to protect, to pass on—these are our responsibilities to future generations."

Drill 50: "The study's objectives were to identify patterns, to analyse trends, and to compare different methodologies." Parallelism in academic writing ensures clarity, professionalism, and logical flow essential for scholarly communication.

Section 6: Sentence Combining Mastery (Drills 51-60)

Drill 51: Basic Coordination 🐶🐶

Sentences: The library was crowded. Students were studying for examinations. The atmosphere was tense.

Task: Combine using coordinating conjunctions to show logical relationships.

Drill 52: Subordination Strategies 🐶🐶🐶

Sentences: The technology was revolutionary. Few people understood its implications. The inventor struggled to find investors.

Task: Combine using subordination to emphasise cause-and-effect relationships.

Drill 53: Appositive Integration 🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: Marie Curie was a pioneering scientist. She won two Nobel Prizes. She conducted groundbreaking research on radioactivity. She faced significant gender discrimination.

Task: Combine using appositives and other techniques into two sophisticated sentences.

Drill 54: Participial Phrase Combination 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: The storm approached rapidly. Dark clouds gathered overhead. Lightning illuminated the sky. Residents sought shelter indoors.

Task: Combine using participial phrases to create dramatic effect.

Drill 55: Complex Coordination 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: The research was comprehensive. The methodology was flawed. The results were inconclusive. The study gained significant attention. The conclusions were disputed.

Task: Combine into one complex sentence showing contrasts and relationships.

Drill 56: Relative Clause Integration 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: The algorithm was developed by a team of researchers. The team worked at Cambridge University. The algorithm revolutionised data processing. It reduced computation time by 80%. This achievement won international recognition.

Task: Combine using relative clauses and other sophisticated structures.

Drill 57: Advanced Transitional Combining 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: Climate change threatens biodiversity. Governments debate policies. Corporations resist changes. Scientists issue warnings. Citizens demand action. Time runs short.

Task: Combine into a cohesive paragraph using sophisticated transitional strategies.

Drill 58: Stylistic Variation 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Base sentences: The ancient city was discovered. It was buried for centuries. Archaeologists were excited. The find was significant. It revealed new historical insights.

Task: Create three different combined versions, each with a distinct stylistic emphasis.

Drill 59: Embedding Techniques 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Sentences: The novel won the Booker Prize. The author wrote it during a difficult period. She was recovering from illness. The story explores themes of resilience. Critics praised its emotional depth. Readers connected with its authenticity.

Task: Combine using embedding techniques while maintaining clarity and flow.

Drill 60: Rhetorical Combining 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Task: Take these facts about renewable energy and combine them into a persuasive paragraph: Solar power costs have decreased 70%. Wind energy is now competitive. Coal plants are closing. Jobs in renewable sectors are increasing. Investment is growing. Opposition remains from some industries.

Answer Key: Section 6

Drill 51: "The library was crowded with students studying for examinations, and the atmosphere was tense." or "The library was crowded because students were studying for examinations, so the atmosphere was tense."

Drill 52: "Although the technology was revolutionary, the inventor struggled to find investors because few people understood its implications."

Drill 53: "Marie Curie, a pioneering scientist who won two Nobel Prizes, conducted groundbreaking research on radioactivity despite facing significant gender discrimination."

Drill 54: "Approaching rapidly with dark clouds gathering overhead and lightning illuminating the sky, the storm sent residents seeking shelter indoors."

Drill 55: "Although the research was comprehensive, the flawed methodology produced inconclusive results, yet the study gained significant attention despite its disputed conclusions."

Drill 56: "The algorithm that was developed by a Cambridge University research team revolutionised data processing by reducing computation time by 80%, an achievement that won international recognition."

Drill 57: "While climate change threatens biodiversity and scientists issue increasingly urgent warnings, governments continue debating policies as corporations resist necessary changes; meanwhile, citizens

demand immediate action, but time runs perilously short."

Drill 58: Version 1 (Discovery focus): "The ancient city, buried for centuries until its discovery, excited archaeologists with its significant revelations of new historical insights." Version 2 (Time focus): "Centuries after being buried, the ancient city's discovery provided archaeologists with significant findings that revealed new historical insights." Version 3 (Impact focus): "Archaeologists were excited by the significant discovery of an ancient city that had been buried for centuries, revealing new historical insights."

Drill 59: "The novel that won the Booker Prize was written during a difficult period when the author was recovering from illness, yet its exploration of resilience themes earned critical praise for emotional depth and connected with readers through its authenticity."

Drill 60: "The renewable energy revolution is undeniably here: solar power costs have plummeted 70% while wind energy has become economically competitive, forcing coal plants to close as investment grows and jobs multiply in renewable sectors. Although some industries continue their opposition, the economic and environmental benefits make the transition inevitable."

Section 7: Advanced Punctuation Syntax (Drills 61-70)

Drill 61: Semicolon Mastery 🐾🐾

Sentence: The conference was informative however many delegates found it overwhelming.

Task: Add proper punctuation and explain the semicolon rule applied.

Drill 62: Colon Applications 🐾🐾🐾

Sentences: 1) "The recipe requires three ingredients flour, eggs, and milk." 2) "She had one goal to succeed." 3) "The meeting starts at 3 00 PM."

Task: Add colons where appropriate and explain each usage.

Drill 63: Dash Sophistication 🐾🐾🐾

Sentence: The results were unexpected the team had predicted completely different outcomes and this discovery changed everything.

Task: Use dashes to create emphasis and clarity, explaining your choices.

Drill 64: Complex Quotation Integration 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The professor said The research findings he paused dramatically will revolutionise our understanding of marine biology.

Task: Add all necessary punctuation for this interrupted quotation.

Drill 65: Parenthetical Expertise 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The algorithm developed by Dr Chen see Appendix A significantly improved processing speed by approximately 40 per cent though some critics disagree.

Task: Use appropriate punctuation for different types of parenthetical information.

Drill 66: Ellipsis Applications 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Original quote: "The impact of climate change on biodiversity is unprecedented in human history, requiring immediate and comprehensive action from all nations worldwide."

Task: Create three different shortened versions using ellipses correctly for different purposes.

Drill 67: Punctuation in Complex Lists 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The conference featured speakers from Sydney Australia Melbourne Australia Auckland New Zealand and Wellington New Zealand.

Task: Punctuate this complex list using appropriate techniques.

Drill 68: Advanced Apostrophe Usage 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: 1) "The childrens books were organised alphabetically." 2) "The Jones house needed repairs." 3) "Mind your ps and qs."

Task: Correct apostrophe usage and explain the rules for each case.

Drill 69: Punctuation Style Consistency 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Text: Dr Smith said "The results are significant"; however, Dr. Jones disagreed, stating: "More research is needed." The debate continues (see Chapter 5, pages 45-67) but progress is being made.

Task: Identify and correct style inconsistencies in punctuation usage.

Drill 70: Punctuation for Effect 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Task: Write a paragraph about a dramatic discovery using advanced punctuation (semicolons, colons, dashes, parentheses) strategically for rhetorical effect and clarity.

Answer Key: Section 7

Drill 61: "The conference was informative; however, many delegates found it overwhelming." Semicolon separates independent clauses joined by transitional adverb.

Drill 62: 1) "The recipe requires three ingredients: flour, eggs, and milk." (Introduces list) 2) "She had one goal: to succeed." (Explains/elaborates) 3) "The meeting starts at 3:00 PM." (Time notation)

Drill 63: "The results were unexpected—the team had predicted completely different outcomes—and this discovery changed everything." Dashes create dramatic pause and emphasise the unexpected nature.

Drill 64: "The professor said, 'The research findings'—he paused dramatically—'will revolutionise our understanding of marine biology.'"

Drill 65: "The algorithm developed by Dr Chen (see Appendix A) significantly improved processing speed by approximately 40 per cent, though some critics disagree." Parentheses for reference; commas for qualifying information.

Drill 66: 1) Beginning omission: "...requiring immediate and comprehensive action from all nations worldwide." 2) Middle omission: "The impact of climate change on biodiversity is unprecedented...requiring immediate and comprehensive action." 3) End omission: "The impact of climate change on biodiversity is unprecedented in human history..."

Drill 67: "The conference featured speakers from Sydney, Australia; Melbourne, Australia; Auckland, New Zealand; and Wellington, New Zealand." Semicolons separate complex list items containing commas.

Drill 68: 1) "The children's books were organised alphabetically." (Irregular plural possession) 2) "The Joneses' house needed repairs." (Plural family name possession) 3) "Mind your p's and q's." (Plural letters)

Drill 69: Corrected: "Dr Smith said, 'The results are significant'; however, Dr Jones disagreed, stating: 'More research is needed.' The debate continues (see Chapter 5, pages 45–67), but progress is being made."

Drill 70: Sample: "The excavation revealed something extraordinary: beneath centuries of sediment lay an intact Roman villa—complete, untouched, magnificent. The team (led by Professor Martinez) worked carefully through each room; every artifact told a story, every mosaic preserved ancient artistry. This discovery would rewrite history—literally."

Section 8: Conditional and Subjunctive Constructions (Drills 71-80)

Drill 71: Zero Conditional Mastery 🐶🐶

Sentence: When water reaches 100 degrees Celsius, it will boil.

Task: Correct this conditional structure and explain when zero conditionals are used.

Drill 72: First Conditional Precision 🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: If the weather will be fine tomorrow, we go to the beach.

Task: Correct the tense errors and provide two alternative ways to express this condition.

Drill 73: Second Conditional Sophistication 🐶🐶🐶

Task: Create second conditional sentences about: 1) An impossible scientific scenario 2) An unlikely social situation 3) A hypothetical historical change

Drill 74: Third Conditional Complexity 🐶🐶🐶🐶

Sentence: If the expedition had left earlier, they would avoid the storm and reach their destination safely.

Task: Correct the mixed conditional error and explain the temporal relationships.

Drill 75: Mixed Conditional Mastery 🐶🐶🐶🐶

Scenario: Past action affecting present situation

Task: Create a mixed conditional about someone's education affecting their current career prospects.

Drill 76: Subjunctive Mood Recognition 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentences: 1) "I suggest that he studies harder." 2) "If I was you, I would apologise." 3) "It's essential that she arrives on time."

Task: Identify and correct subjunctive mood errors.

Drill 77: Formal Subjunctive Applications 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Task: Write formal sentences using subjunctive mood for: recommendations, requirements, wishes, and hypothetical situations.

Drill 78: Conditional Variations 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Base scenario: Studying more leads to better results

Task: Express this relationship using five different conditional structures (unless, provided that, as long as, even if, only if).

Drill 79: Implied Conditionals 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: Without proper preparation, the presentation would have been a disaster.

Task: Rewrite as explicit conditional statements in two different ways.

Drill 80: Conditional Chains 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Task: Create a paragraph about environmental consequences using a chain of three connected conditional statements, demonstrating cause-and-effect relationships.

Answer Key: Section 8

Drill 71: "When water reaches 100 degrees Celsius, it boils." Zero conditionals use simple present in both clauses for scientific facts and universal truths.

Drill 72: "If the weather is fine tomorrow, we will go to the beach." Alternatives: "Should the weather be fine tomorrow, we will go to the beach." "We will go to the beach if the weather is fine tomorrow."

Drill 73: 1) "If humans could photosynthesize like plants, we wouldn't need to eat food." 2) "If everyone in the world spoke the same language, communication would be simpler." 3) "If the internet had been invented in the 1800s, the Industrial Revolution would have developed differently."

Drill 74: "If the expedition had left earlier, they would have avoided the storm and reached their destination safely." Third conditional requires 'would have + past participle' in the result clause.

Drill 75: "If she had studied medicine at university, she would be a doctor now." (Past condition, present result)

Drill 76: 1) "I suggest that he study harder." 2) "If I were you, I would apologise." 3) "It's essential that she arrive on time." Subjunctive uses base form of verb.

Drill 77: Recommendation: "I recommend that the committee reconsider its decision." Requirement: "It is mandatory that all students attend the assembly." Wish: "I wish that the weather were better." Hypothetical: "If it were possible to travel in time, I would visit ancient Rome."

Drill 78: "Unless students study more, they won't get better results." "Provided that students study more, they will get better results." "As long as students study more, they will get better results." "Even if students study more, they might not get better results." "Only if students study more will they get better results."

Drill 79: "If there had been no proper preparation, the presentation would have been a disaster." "Had they not prepared properly, the presentation would have been a disaster."

Drill 80: "If we continue to emit greenhouse gases at current rates, global temperatures will rise significantly. If global temperatures rise significantly, polar ice caps will melt rapidly. If polar ice caps melt rapidly, sea levels will rise dramatically, displacing millions of people and destroying coastal ecosystems."

Section 9: Advanced Sentence Variety (Drills 81-90)

Drill 81: Rhetorical Questions 🐶🐶

Statement: The benefits of renewable energy are obvious to everyone.

Task: Rewrite using rhetorical questions to create more engaging and persuasive text.

Drill 82: Inverted Sentence Structures 🐕🐕🐕

Sentence: The solution to this complex problem lies in collaborative international efforts.

Task: Create three different inverted versions for emphasis and variety.

Drill 83: Periodic Sentence Construction 🐕🐕🐕

Loose sentence: The expedition discovered ancient artifacts despite facing treacherous weather conditions, equipment failures, and hostile terrain for three months.

Task: Reconstruct as a periodic sentence for dramatic effect.

Drill 84: Cumulative Sentence Building 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Base clause: The artist painted.

Task: Build a cumulative sentence by adding at least four modifying elements that create a vivid scene.

Drill 85: Balanced Sentence Crafting 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Concept: Comparing traditional and modern education methods

Task: Create a balanced sentence that uses parallel structure to highlight contrasts.

Drill 86: Fragment Usage for Effect 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Context: Describing a tense moment during a scientific experiment

Task: Write a passage using intentional fragments to create dramatic impact, then explain when this technique is appropriate.

Drill 87: Antithesis and Chiasmus 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Topic: The relationship between knowledge and wisdom

Task: Create sentences using antithesis and chiasmus to explore this philosophical concept.

Drill 88: Sentence Length Variation 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Task: Write a paragraph about a storm approaching that uses deliberate sentence length variation: start with long, descriptive sentences, then use progressively shorter sentences to build tension, ending with a fragment.

Drill 89: Voice and Mood Variation 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Scenario: A school principal addressing students about academic excellence

Task: Write a short speech that effectively combines declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences.

Drill 90: Stylistic Synthesis 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Challenge: Write a paragraph about innovation in technology that incorporates at least five different sentence types from this section (rhetorical question, inversion, cumulative, balanced, antithesis).

Answer Key: Section 9

Drill 81: "Who can deny the obvious benefits of renewable energy? Are we not compelled to embrace technologies that promise a cleaner future? Why would anyone choose pollution over progress?"

Drill 82: 1) "In collaborative international efforts lies the solution to this complex problem." 2) "Only through collaborative international efforts can we solve this complex problem." 3) "Never has the need for collaborative international efforts been more crucial to solving this complex problem."

Drill 83: "Despite facing treacherous weather conditions, equipment failures, and hostile terrain for three months, the expedition discovered ancient artifacts." (Main clause delayed for dramatic effect)

Drill 84: "The artist painted methodically, her brush dancing across the canvas with practiced precision, each stroke revealing hidden depths of emotion, colours blending seamlessly into a masterpiece that would captivate viewers for generations."

Drill 85: "Traditional education emphasises memorisation and conformity, whilst modern education celebrates creativity and critical thinking; the former produces obedient workers, the latter develops innovative leaders."

Drill 86: "The scientist held her breath. Waiting. The mixture bubbled violently. Then silence. A pause. Success." Fragments can create tension and immediacy in creative or dramatic writing but should be used sparingly and purposefully.

Drill 87: Antithesis: "Knowledge informs the mind, but wisdom transforms the soul." Chiasmus: "We must not learn simply to know, but know truly to learn."

Drill 88: "The storm gathered momentum across the vast expanse of the horizon, its dark clouds swirling menacingly whilst lightning flickered like nature's warning signals in the distance. The wind began to howl through the trees. Thunder rumbled ominously. Closer now. Very close. Here."

Drill 89: "Students, academic excellence is not merely about grades—it's about developing your full potential. Do you realise how privileged you are to receive this education? Embrace every opportunity to learn and grow. Strive for excellence in everything you do. What an exciting future awaits those who commit to lifelong learning!"

Drill 90: "How has technology transformed our daily lives so dramatically? (rhetorical question) Never before have innovations emerged with such breathtaking speed (inversion), each breakthrough building upon previous discoveries, creating an intricate web of interconnected progress that reshapes entire industries (cumulative). Traditional methods emphasise stability and proven techniques, whilst modern innovation celebrates disruption and creative destruction (balanced). We must innovate to survive, yet survive we must to innovate (antithesis)."

Section 10: NAPLAN-Style Synthesis Challenges (Drills 91-100)

Drill 91: Multi-Error Identification 🐶🐶

Sentence: Each of the students were responsible for there own research project, which should of been completed by now, but many students haven't even began.

Task: Identify and correct all grammatical errors, explaining each correction.

Drill 92: Formal Register Transformation 🐶🐶🐶

Informal text: "So this scientist guy found out that if you heat stuff up really fast, weird things happen to the atoms and junk. It's like super cool and could change everything."

Task: Rewrite in formal academic style whilst preserving the core meaning.

Drill 93: Cohesion and Coherence 🐕🐕🐕

Paragraph: "Climate change affects weather patterns. Scientists study temperature data. Governments create policies. Rising sea levels threaten coastal cities. Renewable energy offers solutions. People must change their behaviour."

Task: Rewrite to improve cohesion and coherence using appropriate transitional devices.

Drill 94: Conciseness and Clarity 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Wordy passage: "Due to the fact that there were a considerable number of students who failed to submit their assignments on time, it is necessary for the teacher to make the decision to extend the deadline for a period of one additional week."

Task: Revise for conciseness whilst maintaining all essential information.

Drill 95: Complex Error Analysis 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Passage: "The committee who's members include both teachers and students, have been working diligently to improve school policies. Their recommendations, which effects every student, should be implemented careful. Between you and I, this is the most important decision facing the school."

Task: Identify errors in: possessive vs. contraction, subject-verb agreement, word choice, and pronoun case.

Drill 96: Academic Synthesis 🐕🐕🐕🐕

Research findings: 1) Solar panels reduce electricity costs by 40%. 2) Installation requires significant initial investment. 3) Government rebates offset 25% of costs. 4) Technology improves efficiency annually. 5) Environmental benefits include reduced emissions.

Task: Synthesise into a persuasive paragraph using sophisticated sentence structures.

Drill 97: Stylistic Appropriateness 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Context: Writing a letter to a newspaper editor about local environmental issues

Task: Compose three paragraphs demonstrating: formal tone, logical argument structure, and sophisticated vocabulary whilst maintaining accessibility.

Drill 98: Advanced Proofreading 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Text: "Throughout history, many significant discoveries have been made by accident. For example, Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin when mold contaminated his bacterial cultures. This serendipitous event lead to one of medicines greatest breakthroughs, saving countless lives and revolutionising medical treatment's."

Task: Identify and correct all errors while explaining the rules involved.

Drill 99: Comprehensive Text Analysis 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Task: Analyse the following sentence for: clause types, grammatical functions, punctuation purpose, and stylistic effectiveness: "Although the expedition faced unprecedented challenges—extreme weather, equipment failures, and hostile terrain—the team's determination, coupled with their extensive preparation, enabled them to achieve what many experts had deemed impossible."

Drill 100: Ultimate Synthesis Challenge 🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

Challenge: Write a paragraph about the importance of scientific literacy that demonstrates mastery of: complex sentence structures, advanced punctuation, sophisticated vocabulary, parallel structure, transitional coherence, and formal academic tone. Include at least one example each of: compound-complex sentence, conditional statement, and passive construction.

Answer Key: Section 10

Drill 91: "Each of the students was responsible for their own research project, which should have been completed by now, but many students haven't even begun." Errors: subject-verb agreement (was), pronoun agreement (their), auxiliary verb (have), irregular past participle (begun).

Drill 92: "Research has demonstrated that rapid thermal acceleration produces unusual atomic behaviour. This phenomenon presents significant potential for technological advancement and may fundamentally alter our understanding of materials science."

Drill 93: "Climate change significantly affects global weather patterns, prompting scientists to study temperature data extensively. Consequently, governments worldwide are creating comprehensive policies to address these challenges. Meanwhile, rising sea levels continue to threaten coastal cities, although renewable energy offers promising solutions. Ultimately, however, people must change their behaviour to ensure meaningful progress."

Drill 94: "Because many students failed to submit assignments on time, the teacher extended the deadline by one week." (25 words reduced from 44 words—44% reduction)

Drill 95: "The committee whose members include both teachers and students has been working diligently to improve school policies. Their recommendations, which affect every student, should be implemented carefully. Between you and me, this is the most important decision facing the school." Errors: whose (not who's), has (not have), affect (not effects), carefully (not careful), me (not I).

Drill 96: "Although solar panel installation requires significant initial investment, the technology reduces electricity costs by 40% whilst providing substantial environmental benefits through reduced emissions. Furthermore, government rebates offset 25% of installation costs, and technological improvements continue to enhance efficiency annually, making solar energy an increasingly attractive and economically viable solution for environmentally conscious homeowners."

Drill 97: Sample: "Dear Editor, As a concerned resident, I am writing to address the alarming environmental degradation affecting our local waterways. Recent industrial expansion has resulted in increased pollution levels, threatening both wildlife habitats and community health. Unless immediate action is taken to enforce stricter environmental regulations, we risk irreversible damage to our natural heritage. Therefore, I urge local authorities to prioritise environmental protection over short-term economic gains, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come."

Drill 98: "Throughout history, many significant discoveries have been made by accident. For example, Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin when mould contaminated his bacterial cultures. This serendipitous event led to one of medicine's greatest breakthroughs, saving countless lives and revolutionising medical treatment." Errors: mould (British spelling), led (past tense), medicine's (possessive), treatment (not treatment's).

Drill 99: Complex sentence with: main clause "the team's determination...enabled them to achieve," subordinate clause "Although the expedition faced unprecedented challenges," relative clause "what many experts had deemed impossible." Dashes create emphasis for the interrupting series. Participial phrase "coupled with their extensive preparation" adds detail. Stylistically effective due to periodic structure building to climactic main point.

Drill 100: Sample: "Scientific literacy represents a fundamental requirement for informed citizenship in our increasingly complex world, enabling individuals to evaluate evidence critically, understand technological implications, and participate meaningfully in democratic decision-making processes. If citizens lack basic scientific understanding, they become vulnerable to misinformation and manipulation, whilst sophisticated policies regarding climate change, medical research, and technological development are dismissed or misinterpreted by an uninformed populace. Therefore, scientific education must be prioritised at all levels—

primary, secondary, and tertiary—ensuring that future generations possess the analytical skills necessary for navigating an evidence-based society."

Conclusion

Congratulations on completing all 100 Big-Dog Syntax Drills! These challenging exercises have developed your understanding of sophisticated grammatical structures, advanced punctuation usage, and complex sentence construction essential for NAPLAN success.

Key Skills Mastered:

- Complex compound and compound-complex sentence construction
- Advanced subordinate clause usage and embedding techniques
- Sophisticated modifier placement and participial structures
- Parallel structure mastery and stylistic balance
- Professional punctuation usage for clarity and effect
- Conditional and subjunctive mood applications
- Sentence variety and rhetorical sophistication
- Academic synthesis and formal register control

British Spelling Conventions Used:

Throughout this text: colour, realise, analyse, organise, centre, metre, defence, licence (noun), practise (verb), whilst, amongst, mould, grey, travelled, modelling, focussed, programme, dialogue, catalogue, analogue, specialise, modernise, recognise, emphasise, characterise, summarise, categorise, standardise, criticise, apologise, capitalise, finalise, utilise, optimise, minimise, maximise, theorise, philosophise, moralise, socialise, actualise, materialise, individualise, rationalise, nationalise, commercialise, accessorise, computerise, popularise, familiarise, democratise, revolutionise, evangelise, metabolise, crystallise, crystalline, fossilise, fertilise, sterilise, symbolise, metabolise, analyse, paralyse, catalyse.

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