**Mountain View 10th Grade ELA Core Standards Study Guide**

**Parts of Speech**

There are many different parts of speech, but I only require you to master seven of them. Here they are:

**1. Verbs**: action words that nouns can do. Ex: Learning ***is*** fun. I ***jumped*** over the moon. She ***can*** really ***sing***.

**2. Nouns**: Anything that can be named.

Ex: ***school, effort, man, market, freedom***

3. -Pronouns: Words that stand in for common or proper nouns as place holders. Ex: ***It, he, she, they, you*** etc.

4. Adjectives: Answer the question “What kind of noun is it?” Ex: ***The brown computer*** store. **A** book. **Burned** toast. I saw ***three*** birds.

Remember that the three “articles” (the, an, a) are a type of adjective.

5. Adverbs: Answer the question “How?” for verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Ex: I am ***really*** happy. I ***truly*** am ***very*** happy. I will arrive ***quite soon***.

6. Prepositions: Words that show the time/space relationship between 2+ things. A good way to test for prepositions is to try inserting the word in the following sentence: “The pencil is/goes \_\_\_\_\_\_ the desk.” (Remember that “during” and “of” are common prepositions even though they don’t work very well in that test sentence.) Ex: ***in, on, above, beyond, of, with, for*** etc.

7. Conjunctions

8a. Coordinating Conjunctions: There are just seven of them. FANBOYS is an acronym that makes them easy to remember. Ex. ***For, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.*** Be careful with the word “for” because it can also be a preposition. “For” is a conjunction when it’s used in the following manner: I teach, for I am a teacher.

8b. Subordinating Conjunctions: After, as, when, while etc. (see clauses) Some of these can be prepositions, so be careful.

**Finding Subject, Verb, and Object**

When trying to find the subject of a sentence, find all of the verbs first:

“Running ***is*** my favorite weekday activity.”

Verb

Then, just find the word that is doing that verb and you have your subject:

“Running is my favorite weekday activity.”

Subject

If the sentence is confusing, look for prepositions to boil the sentence down to its simplest core:

“Running is my favorite thing to do on weekday afternoons.”

Prep. Prep.

Then, find out what the preposition is attached to by asking “to what?” “on what?” etc. These are prepositional phrases and can be removed from your investigation.

“***Running* (**~~with my friends~~) ***is*** my favorite thing (***~~on~~*** ~~weekday afternoons~~).”

Subject Verb

Then, to find the object, just ask what is the subject doing the action of the verb directly to?

**Running** **exhausted** **me** last year.

Subject Verb object

**Clauses**

An independent clause (IC) is simply a sentence. It must have (1) a subject, (2) a verb, and (3) must make sense by itself. Ex: “***Peter sings.” “Winning is the best.”***

A dependent clause (DC) is the same as an independent clause, but it has one of the following words called **subordinating conjunctions** at its beginning:

After: ***After*** *Peter eats dinner*

As: ***As*** *I walk through the valley of the shadow of death*

When: ***When*** *Harry met Sally*

While: ***While*** *you were sleeping*

Until

Unless

Because

Before

If

Since

Though

Although

**Clause Combination Possibilities (for run-on correction):**

**Ic. Ic.**

John eats. Sally runs.

**Icdc.**

John eats because sally runs.

**Dc, ic.**

Because Sally runs, John eats.

**Ic, cc ic.**

John runs, and Sally eats.

**Ic; ic.**

John eats; Sally sleeps.

**The following combinations are always wrong:**

IC, IC. *~~This is a nice place, it really is.~~*

IC IC. ~~This is a nice place it really is.~~

**Things to remember when fixing commas/run-ons:**

Takeouts: Takeout information has commas on both sides. Joe**, the clerk,** was lazy. *John****, however,*** *worked two jobs!* Sometimes words like conjunctive adverbs can be takeouts.

Coordinating Conjunctions that DON’T link two clauses: “Jack and Jill went up the hill.” Doesn’t need a comma because “Jack” is not a complete sentence (IC).

Conjunctions can be prepositions: Subordinating conjunctions like before/after and FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) words like “for” can be prepositions, so be careful—conjunctions link together two independent clauses.

Preposition: I live for pizza.

Conjunction: I live, for pizza gives me the will to live.

Preposition: I went after my goal.

Conjunction: I went home after my goal was accomplished.