**Exercises: Emphasis**

**Identify the following sentences as cumulative, periodic or inverted sentences.**

1) I went to the movies yesterday, bought candy, and shopped at the mall.

b) Cumulative

2) In spite of heavy snow and cold temperatures, the game continued.

a) Periodic

3) I like all kinds of music, rhythm and blues, rock, and hip hop.

a) Cumulative

4) Not only was Mary Ann Shadd famous for helping escaped slaves, but she was also the first African Canadian woman to establish a newspaper.

a) Inverted

5) He finally landed his dream job, after hundreds of applications, dozens of interviews, and his willingness to start with a smaller salary and move up.

a) Cumulative

6) Never again will you do that.

a) Inverted

7) After shopping at the mall, walking the dogs and washing the car, I finally got to stay in and relax.

a) Periodic

8) Rarely have I eaten better food.

a) Inverted

9) “The radiators put out lots of heat, too much, in fact, and old-fashioned sounds and smells came with it, exhalations of the matter that composes our own mortality, and reminiscent of the intimate gases we all diffuse.”

a) Cumulative

10) The beach, with white sand, crystal clear water, and palm trees, is a favourite hangout for the locals.

a) Periodic

**1. Combine each of the following sentence groups into one loose (cumulative) sentence, subordinating supporting details to more important ideas. Then, combine each group into one periodic sentence. (Each group can be combined in a variety of ways, and you may have to add, delete, change, or reorder words.) How do the two versions of the sentence differ in emphasis?**

**Example:** More women than ever before are running for office.

They are encouraged by the success of other female candidates.

**Cumulative**: More women than ever before are running for office, encouraged by the success of other female candidates.

**Periodic:** Encouraged by the success of other female candidates, more women than ever before are running for office.

1. Some politicians opposed the prescription drug program. They believed it was too expensive. They felt that a smaller, more limited program was preferable.

2. Smoking poses a real danger. It is associated with various cancers. It is linked to heart disease and stroke. It threatens even non-smokers.

3. Black-footed ferrets are rare North American mammals. They prey on prairie dogs. They are primarily nocturnal. They have black feet and black-tipped tails. Their faces have raccoon-like masks.

4. Today’s college students are under a good deal of stress. Job prospects in some fields are not very good. Financial aid is not as easy to come by as it was in the past.

5. Education has grown very expensive. The job market has become tighter. Pressure to get into graduate and professional schools has increased.

**2. Rewrite the following sentences, rearranging the elements in the lists into climatic order.**

*Random order*: When the bucket fell off the ladder, the paint splashed onto the small rug, the drop cloth, the

Rembrandt painting, and the sofa.

*Climactic order:* ...........................................................................................................................................

*Random order*: Franklin used the ant as a symbol of industry, wisdom and efficiency

*Climactic order:* ...........................................................................................................................................

*Random order*: Before buying the house, inspect the carpet for wear, the foundation for cracks, the roof for leaks, the plumbing for rusty water, and the paint for chipping.

*Climactic order*: ...........................................................................................................................................

*Random order*: Today we enjoy the benefits of modern technology, including life-saving antibiotics, ballpoint pens, and refrigerators.

*Climactic order:* ...........................................................................................................................................

*Random order*: Natural water storage includes the oceans, ponds, lakes, and puddles.

*Climactic order*: ...........................................................................................................................................

***3. Revise the following sentences to make them more emphatic. For each, decide which ideas should be highlighted, and place these key ideas at sentence beginnings or endings. Use climactic order or depart from conventional word order where appropriate.***

1. Police want to upgrade their firepower because criminals are better armed than ever before.

2. A few years ago, felons used so-called Saturday night specials, small-caliber six-shot revolvers.

3. Now, semiautomatic pistols capable of firing fifteen to twenty rounds, along with paramilitary weapons like the AK-47, have replaced these weapons.

4. Police are adopting such weapons as new fast-firing shotguns and 9mm automatic pistols in order to gain an equal footing with their adversaries.

5. Faster reloading and a hair trigger are two of the numerous advantages that automatic pistols, the weapons of choice among law enforcement officers, have over the traditional .38-caliber police revolver.

**4. Rewrite the sentences given below placing the underlined word at the beginning or the end of the sentence to gain emphasis.**

1. Though he is poor, he is happy.
2. The birds flew up.
3. Though he was hurt, he didn’t stop playing.
4. The guns relentlessly boomed out.
5. I would like for myself only his old photograph.

**5. A/ Write two loose (cumulative) sentences at least ten words long using each of the basic statements. Do not change the basic statement; just add to it.**

• She liked the song. • They had a good time.

**B/ Using the following basic statements, write two periodic sentences at least fifteen words long.**

• Mary left the room. • The circus was his life.

**6. Compose two sentences as directed:**

A **LOOSE** sentence which you turn into a **PERIODIC** sentence to gain emphasis.