

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

TMG TUG 12 March 2005

The Sample Project is used for all examples

NOTE: These features can only be used in the Advanced Mode of TMG.

❖ **Definitions:**

- Global vs. individual sentences
 - Global are the default sentences found in the tag type list. If you edit these sentences, it will affect all tags that use the default. It will not override the individual sentences.
 - Choose Add > Add Tag, click on yellow +, or press F4 key
 - Look at the structure of the sentences for Principals and for Witnesses. These are the global, or default, sentences
 - Individual are the customized sentences for one event/tag/individual only.
 - Any changes made at this level will affect that tag for that individual only.
 - Changes made at the global level will not change this tag's sentence structure.
- Variables and Conditional Variables
 - Letters enclosed by square brackets that tell TMG to place certain data in a specific spot (e.g. [P] = Principal, [D] = Date, etc.)
 - Reference Help topic "Variables (Event Tags) or Appendix D in the TMG Users Guide for a complete list of variables.
 - May be made "conditional" by enclosing with carats (e.g. <[D]>)
 - Conditional variables will print only if data is entered in that field. Else, it will leave it blank.
 - If variable is not conditional, it will print "unknown" if data is not entered in that field (e.g. sentence structure has [D], no date entered in tag, sentence will print "...unknown date...")
- Principal vs. Witnesses
 - A principal is the main subject of the event. Most TMG tags can have two principals. The principals do not have to be husband and wife. The principals are designated as P1 and P2.
 - Usually, the first instance of [P] will print the principal's full name, and will print pronouns thereafter.
 - A witness is a person who is associated with a given event, even though he/she may not be one of the principals. You may have an unlimited number of witnesses to any given event.
- Roles
 - Roles can define the part played in specific events. For example, a marriage event may have a Groom (P1), a Bride (P2), the Reverend conducting the ceremony (W), the Bride's father who gave consent (W), the groom's brother who gave surety for the bond (W), and any other person that may have been involved or present at the wedding.

❖ **Default sentences:**

- View the default birth tag:
[P] was born <[D]> <[L]>
- Add a death tag to Carrie Tipton Alexander (8).
 - Put date “1956”
 - Leave all other fields blank
 - Click on “Sentence” button. The default structure is:
[P] died <[D]> <[L]> <[A]>.
 - Preview the Individual Narrative report for Carrie Tipton Alexander (8)
 - [P]=Carrie Tipton Alexander; [D] = date of event; [L] = location of event.
[Carrie Tipton Alexander was born on 11 Mar 1874. She died in 1956.](#)
- Change the death date to 29 Sep 1956. Preview the Individual Narrative report
[Carrie Tipton Alexander was born on 11 Mar 1874. She died on 29 Sep 1956 at age 82.](#)
- Enter Bledsoe County, Tennessee in the place fields of the death tag. Preview the Individual Narrative report
[Carrie Tipton Alexander was born on 11 Mar 1874. She died on 29 Sep 1956 at Bledsoe County, Tennessee, at age 82.](#)

❖ **Individual sentences:**

- Add a marriage tag to Carrie Tipton Alexander (8).
 - Add a new person as the Husband:
Joe Blizvitz, born 1870 in Tennessee, died 1960 in Tennessee
 - Married 22 Aug 1891 in Bledsoe County, Tennessee
 - Add witness Samuel Alexander (33)
 - Edit the sentence to read:
[P] married [PO] <[PARO]> <[D]> <[L]>. [WO] performed the ceremony
 - Preview the Individual Narrative report
[Carrie Tipton Alexander was born on 11 Mar 1874. She married Joe Blizvitz on 22 Aug 1891 at Bledsoe County, Tennessee. Samuel Alexander performed the ceremony. She died on 29 Sep 1956 at Bledsoe County, Tennessee, at age 82.](#)

❖ **Add Roles and edit global sentence to incorporate the Roles**

- Choose Add > Add Tag, click on yellow +, or press F4 key
- Highlight Marriage and click on the Edit button
- Click on the Roles and Sentences tab
- Bride and Groom are already there. Click New and add the following Roles:
MINISTER with the sentence [R:Minister] officiated at the wedding of [P] and [PO] <[D]> <[L]>”
CONSENT with the sentence “[R:Consent] gave consent in [Y] for [RS:Consent] daughter, [P1], to marry [P2]”
SURETY with the sentence “[R:Surety] provided surety for the marriage bond of [P1] and [P2]”
- Change the default sentence for the Principal to “[P] married [PO] <[PARO]> <[D]> <[L]>.<[R:Minister] officiated.><[R:Consent] filed [RS:Consent] consent with the bond.><[R:Surety] provided surety for the bond>” (Note the conditional brackets.)
- Edit Carrie Tipton Alexander’s marriage tag as follows:
Add witnesses Frank Alexander (1) and John Keys Fugate (42)

- Change the sentence back to the default by deleting the sentence
 - Change the witnesses' roles as follows:
 Samuel Alexander (33) = **MINISTER** (name = Rev. Samuel Alexander)
 Frank Alexander (1) = **CONSENT**
 John Keys Fugate (42) = **SURETY**
 - Preview the Individual Narrative report for Carrie (8)
 Carrie Tipton Alexander was born on 11 Mar 1874. She married Joe Blizvitz on 22 Aug 1891 at Bledsoe County, Tennessee. Rev. Samuel Alexander officiated. Frank Alexander filed his consent with the bond. John Keys Fugate provided surety for the bond. She died on 29 Sep 1956 at Bledsoe County, Tennessee, at age 82.
 - Preview the Individual Narrative report for Joe Blizvitz (64)
 Joe Blizvitz was born in 1870 at Tennessee. He married Carrie Tipton Alexander, daughter of Frank Alexander and Mary Catherine Keebler, on 22 Aug 1891 at Bledsoe County, Tennessee. Rev. Samuel Alexander officiated. Frank Alexander filed his consent with the bond. John Keys Fugate provided surety for the bond. He died in 1960 at Tennessee.
 - Preview the Individual Narrative report for Samuel Alexander (33) – last paragraph
 He officiated at the wedding of Carrie Tipton Alexander and Joe Blizvitz on 22 Aug 1891 at Bledsoe County, Tennessee.
 - Preview the Individual Narrative report for Frank Alexander (1) – bottom of the first page
 He gave consent in 1891 for his daughter, Carrie Tipton Alexander, to marry Joe Blizvitz.
 - Preview the Individual Narrative report for John Keys Fugate (42)
 He provided surety for the marriage bond of Carrie Tipton Alexander and Joe Blizvitz.
- ❖ **Case Study: Change the sentence structure to improve the quality of the narrative**
- Add paragraphs and variety to John Keys Fugate (42) Individual Narrative report by utilizing the name variables and format commands from Users Guide Appendix D, Help>Variables, and/or GTMOOTMG chapter 6.
- FROM:**
- John Keys Fugate was born on 23 Jan 1859 at Russell County, Virginia. He was a farmer at Indian Springs, Tennessee. He provided surety for the marriage bond of Carrie Tipton Alexander and Joe Blizvitz. He married Annie Eliza Alexander, daughter of Frank Alexander and Mary Catherine Keebler, on 8 Dec 1896; Ceremony performed by her father, Rev. Frank Alexander. He died on 11 Mar 1922 at Bristol, Tennessee, at age 63.
- TO:**
- John Keys Fugate was born on 23 Jan 1859 at Russell County, Virginia. He was a farmer at Indian Springs, Tennessee.
- John provided surety for the marriage bond of Carrie Tipton Alexander, daughter of Frank Alexander and Mary Catherine Keebler, and Joe Blizvitz on 22 Aug 1891 in Bledsoe County, Tennessee. Carrie was the sister of his future bride. John and Annie Eliza Alexander were married on 8 Dec 1896. The ceremony was performed by Annie's father, Rev. Frank Alexander.
- John contracted pneumonia, resulting in his death on 11 Mar 1922 at Bristol, Tennessee, at age 63. Annie followed him to the grave in 1936.

❖ **References:**

1. TMG Help Topics:
 - a. Sentence Structure
 - b. Variables, Conditional
 - c. Variables (Event Tags)
 - d. Variables (Name Tags)
2. *The Master Genealogist Users Guide*
 - a. “Sentence” pp. 156-157
 - b. “Witness” pp. 158-159
 - c. “Appendix D – Variables” pp. 381-394
3. *Getting the Most Out of The Master Genealogist* Compiled and Edited by Lee H. Hoffman
 - a. “Sentence Structures” by Terry Reigel. ch. 6, pp. 70-89

❖ **Answers to Case Study:**

- Edit Marriage tag Carrie Tipton Alexander (8) and Joe Blizvitz (64) Surety witness sentence to:
[:CR:][:CR:][RF:Surety] provided surety for the marriage bond of [P1] [PAR1], and [P2] on [D] at [L]. [P1F] was the sister of his future bride.
- Edit Marriage tag for John Keys Fugate (42) and Annie Eliza Alexander (6)
 - Tag sentence to:
[P1F] and [P2] were married <[D]> <[L].>
 - And the text in the Memo to:
The ceremony was performed by her father, Rev. Frank Alexander.
- Edit John Keys Fugate (42) death tag sentence to:
[:CR:][:CR:][PF] [M], resulting in [PP] death <[D]> <[L]> <[A]>
- Edit the Annie Eliza Alexander (6) death tag:
 - Add John Keys Fugate (42) as a witness to her death
 - Change the witness sentence to:
[PF] followed him to the grave in [Y]

CAUTION: The examples used here are for illustrative purposes only. They do not necessarily reflect the most efficient way of utilizing these features, nor do they always reflect the way the instructor would choose to enter similar data into her project. As with all things in TMG, there are multiple ways of doing everything. Use the Sample project to practice and choose what makes the most sense to you.