**Absolute Phrases Worksheet**

An **absolute phrase** consists of a *noun* or a *pronoun* that is modified by a participle or a participial phrase.  Although an absolute phrase may appear to be a clause, it lacks a verb, so it is indeed a phrase.  It stands “absolutely” by itself, having no direct grammatical relation to the complete subject or the complete predicate of a sentence.  Use a comma before or after an absolute.

EXAMPLES:

* *Its* leaves burned off by the fire, the dead tree fell.
* She returned to her bench, her face showing all the unhappiness that had suddenly overtaken her.
* The boy watched, his eyes bulging in the dark.
* His hands raw, he reached the flat place at the top.
* Miss Hearne, her face burning, hardly listened to these words.
* High in the air, a little figure, his hands thrust in his short jacket pockets, stood staring out to sea.

DIRECTIONS: Underline each absolute phrase. Do NOT underline any participial phrase that is directly grammatically related to the rest of a sentence.

1. Her suspicions confirmed, the police officer made the arrest.
2. Backing out of the driveway, I hit the mailbox.
3. The landscape inviting, they decided to take the daytime train.
4. My doubts relieved, I gained confidence as the game progressed.
5. Peering through a microscope, the scientist identified several microbes.
6. Moving quickly, the lion cut off the fleeing zebra.
7. His dogs panting with exertion, Hagos took a break from his run.
8. Its shutters hanging limply in the wind, the house looked abandoned and forlorn.
9. The car rusted and worthless, I left it at the junkyard.
10. Wearing a red plaid outfit, Lydia looked like a character in a novel.
11. An man on a motorcycle, his long robes flying in the wind of his speed, passed John at such a clip that the spirals of dust from his turnings on the winding road looked like little tornadoes.
12. Everything planned in advance, the party went like clockwork.
13. We scrambled from the car, racing to the amusement park gates.
14. My garden is dying, pesticides having been applied by mistake.
15. As the parole board met to decide the fates of several people, the prisoner was hoping for parole.

Properly punctuate the following sentences. Then, put a 1) next to appositives, 2) next to participial phrases and 3) next to absolute phrases.

1. Fearing the worst Margaret climbed the hill her hair dragging behind her in braids.
2. Claire and Dan two of the worst skiers in the world tumbled half way down the hill their gear flying in all directions.
3. A pair of thieves Jack and Jill slipping out the back door walked through the field their eyes glazed with schemes.
4. Shaking with excitement Horace smiled at his cat Snickers laying lazily against the window pane and crouched down to pick him up.
5. My great aunt lives in Sherwood Forest a mysterious place hidden in the Northeast corner.