

Simple and Compound Sentences

- A **simple sentence** contains only one independent clause. The subject, the predicate, or both may be compound.
 EXAMPLES: The courthouse/is the oldest building in town. Gale and Louise/are making costumes and dressing up.
- A **compound sentence** consists of two or more independent clauses. Each independent clause in a compound sentence can stand alone as a separate sentence. The independent clauses are usually joined by and, but, so, or, for, or yet and a comma.
 EXAMPLE: Jack brought the chairs, but Mary forgot the extra table.
- Sometimes a **semicolon (;)** is used to join two independent clauses in a compound sentence.
 EXAMPLE: The music started; the dance had begun.

A. Write S before each simple sentence, and write CS before each compound sentence.

- _____ 1. We can wait for James, or we can go on ahead.
- _____ 2. The carnival will start today in the empty lot.
- _____ 3. Jack and Manuel are going to meet us there at six o'clock.
- _____ 4. I really want to go to the carnival, yet I am not sure about going tonight.
- _____ 5. I didn't mean to hurt Carl's feelings by not going.
- _____ 6. You wait for the package, and I'll meet you at the carnival.
- _____ 7. I can't skip my homework to go, but maybe I'll finish it this afternoon.
- _____ 8. Jan and Alicia are both working at the carnival this year.

B. Put brackets ([]) around the independent clauses in each compound sentence. Then underline the word or punctuation used to join the clauses.

1. You must observe all the rules, or you must withdraw from the race.
2. I did well on the test, and Maria did well, too.
3. Shall I carry this box, or do you want to leave it here?
4. We must closely guard our freedom, or an enemy will take it from us.
5. He threw a beautiful pass, but no one caught it.
6. The doctor treated the cut, but he did not have to make any stitches.
7. I like to spend weekends at home, but the others prefer to travel.
8. The year is almost over, and everyone is thinking of the new year.
9. The family faced every hardship, yet they were thankful for what they had.
10. Move the box over here; I'll unpack it.
11. Connie likes football; James prefers hockey.
12. I drive safely, but I always make everyone fasten seat belts.
13. Please get the telephone number, and I'll call after work.

Combining Sentences: Compound Sentences

One way to make sentences more interesting is to make them different lengths. Sometimes the ideas in two short sentences are related in some way. If the ideas are related, you can combine the two short sentences to make one **compound sentence**.

Britta plays the flute. Todd sings in the chorus.

Britta plays the flute , and Todd sings in the chorus.

Fred dropped the guitar. It didn't break.

Fred dropped the guitar , but it didn't break.

Should I clean my room? Should I practice the piano?

Should I clean my room , or should I practice the piano?

Notice that a **comma** (,) and the word *and*, *but*, or *or* were used to combine each pair of shorter sentences. The words *and*, *but*, and *or* are called **connecting words** because they join, or connect, the two parts of a compound sentence.



Fred dropped the guitar, but it didn't break.

Guided Practice Combine each pair of sentences into one compound sentence, using the connecting word given.

Example: I have a guitar. Ed gives me lessons. (and)

I have a guitar, and Ed gives me lessons.

1. You can strum. You can pluck the strings. (or)
2. I know the notes. I cannot play any songs yet. (but)
3. I pluck with my fingers. I use a pick. (or)
4. Most guitars have six strings. Some have twelve. (but)
5. Ed plays electric guitar. He is in a band. (and)

Summing up

- If two short sentences are related, they can be combined to make one **compound sentence**. Use a comma (,) and the connecting word *and*, *but*, or *or* to combine the sentences.

Independent Practice Write each pair of sentences as one compound sentence. Use the connecting word given.

Example: Zoe went to New York City. She visited the Statue of Liberty. (and)
Zoe went to New York City, and she visited the Statue of Liberty.

6. You may have seen pictures of it. You may have read about it in a book. (or)
7. It is a statue of a woman. Her right hand holds a torch. (and)
8. The statue is copper. Its frame is iron. (but)
9. You can view it from the shore. You can go to Liberty Island. (or)
10. Visitors can climb to the crown. They cannot go into the torch. (but)
11. In 1985 the statue had stood for almost one hundred years. It needed many repairs. (and)
12. Time had aged the statue. Americans were still very proud of it. (but)
13. Money was collected. Repairs began. (and)
14. The repairs were finished in 1986. A big celebration took place on July 4. (and)
15. Were you there? Did you see it on TV? (or)

Writing Application: Persuasion

Students all over the country raised money to help repair the Statue of Liberty. Think of a way to raise money for a project. Write a paragraph persuading people to go along with your idea. Use several compound sentences.

For Extra Practice, see p. 43.