

Some sentences have parts that are joined by connecting words called conjunctions.

- One kind of conjunction is a coordinating conjunction.

**and but or so yet**

- A coordinating conjunction connects two words, two phrases, or two simple sentences.

I would like a sandwich **and** milk.

I would like a game to play **or** a book to read.

We can find a restaurant, **and** you can buy lunch.

We have plenty of games, **but** they have many books.

Circle the coordinating conjunction in each sentence.

1. Let's choose a place to eat **and** a movie to see.
2. I would like pizza, **but** I had pizza for lunch yesterday.
3. Emma thinks Mexican **or** Chinese food would be good.
4. Ella wants a hamburger, **but** she will eat anything.
5. Corey wants to get popcorn at the movies, **so** he won't eat much.
6. Tamara will only eat a salad, a sandwich, **or** fruit.
7. This is too complicated, **so** let's just go to a movie together.
8. We need to decide on a movie **and** a time to meet.
9. I want to see *Cartoon Movie*, **but** Matt wants to see *Food Fight!*
10. We're all good friends **but** can't agree on anything today!

A compound sentence is made by putting together two or more simple sentences containing related information. The sentences are usually joined by a coordinating conjunction, such as *and*, *or*, or *but*. A comma is placed before the conjunction.

**Compound Sentence** I am going swimming, **and** Kate is napping.

**Compound Sentence** A weekend can be hectic, **or** it can be quiet.

**Compound Sentence** I'd like to watch a movie, **but** I can't decide which one to watch.

Create compound sentences from these sentence pairs using a comma and a coordinating conjunction. Write the new sentences on the lines.

1. We are going to the pond. Our dog is going with us.

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2. The day is hot. I don't mind.

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3. We could walk through the woods. We could walk along the road.

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4. The wooded path will be cool. The road will be faster.

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5. Our dog Bruno will swim in the cool water. I will join him.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

A compound sentence is made by putting together two or more simple sentences containing related information. The sentences are usually joined by a coordinating conjunction, such as *so* or *yet*. A comma is placed before the conjunction.

**Compound Sentence** Many people like dinosaurs, *so* the museum displays a dinosaur skeleton.

**Compound Sentence** I know dinosaurs are extinct, *yet* they still scare me!

Create compound sentences from these sentence pairs using a comma and the coordinating conjunction *so* or *yet*. Write the new sentences on the lines.

1. Modern birds are related to dinosaurs. They don't look like reptiles to me.

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2. The T-Rex had powerful jaws and teeth. We know it was a carnivore.

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3. I thought the T-Rex was fast. It only ran 10 or 12 miles per hour.

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Complete each sentence with the correct coordinating conjunction.

or but so

4. Our class wanted a field trip, \_\_\_\_\_ we went to the Natural History Museum.
5. Our guide pointed out the oldest fossil in the museum, \_\_\_\_\_ it didn't look very old.
6. Our teacher said we could either give a report on the trip, \_\_\_\_\_ we could make a diorama.

A clause is a group of words with a subject and a predicate.

- An independent clause can stand alone as a complete sentence.
- A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

**Independent Clause**

Lightning struck the old oak tree.  
A large branch crashed to the ground.

**Dependent Clause**

When lightning struck the old oak tree  
After a large branch crashed to the ground

Circle *independent* if the clause can stand alone as a complete sentence.  
Circle *dependent* if the clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

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|--|-------------|-----------|
| 1. while we were sleeping one night      | independent | dependent |
| 2. a thunderstorm blew in from the north | independent | dependent |
| 3. rain pelted the windows of my bedroom | independent | dependent |
| 4. although I'm a sound sleeper          | independent | dependent |
| 5. I awoke with a start                  | independent | dependent |
| 6. when I hear the first clap of thunder | independent | dependent |
| 7. since I had left the window open      | independent | dependent |
| 8. my books on the windowsill are wet    | independent | dependent |

Write an independent and a dependent clause about a storm.

9. Independent: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Dependent: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Some sentences have parts that are joined together by connecting words called conjunctions.

- One kind of conjunction is a subordinating conjunction.

after although because before if since so  
that though unless until when where while

- A subordinating conjunction connects an independent clause and a dependent clause to make what is called a complex sentence.

### Complex Sentence

We can't meet the star player until the game ends.

Independent Clause      Dependent Clause

Complete each sentence with a subordinating conjunction from the word box. Use each word only once.

so because unless when before if until after

1. We can grow a garden this summer \_\_\_\_\_ there is rain.
2. Last year, the garden failed \_\_\_\_\_ it was so dry.
3. The sun parched the ground \_\_\_\_\_ it was just dust.
4. The dust filled the air \_\_\_\_\_ the wind blew.
5. It was too hot to be outside \_\_\_\_\_ you had a pool.
6. We spent most of our time outside \_\_\_\_\_ the sun went down.
7. I did read a lot of great books \_\_\_\_\_ the summer was over.
8. This summer, I hope it is cooler \_\_\_\_\_ we can do more.

A subordinating conjunction connects an independent clause and a dependent clause to make a complex sentence.

- The subordinating conjunction begins the dependent clause.
- When a subordinating conjunction starts the sentence, place a comma after the dependent clause.

**While** the cookies bake, we can decorate for the party.

- When the subordinating conjunction is in the middle of the sentence, do not use a comma.

We can decorate for the party **while** the cookies bake.

Circle the subordinating conjunction and underline the dependent clause in each sentence. Place a comma in the sentence if necessary.

after although because before if since so  
that though unless until when where while

1. Before school ends today we have to decide on our social studies project.
2. Since we are a small group I think we should try to make something.
3. We could pretend to be Betsy Ross and make a flag if anyone can sew.
4. When the project is finished we can hang the flag in our classroom.
5. Although cloth would be better we could make the flag from paper.
6. I'm sure I can donate a white sheet to use after I ask my mother.
7. Because it is the first flag we only need cloth for thirteen stars.
8. The stars need to go on blue cloth that we do not have.
9. Until we get some red cloth we can't add the thirteen stripes on the flag.
10. Unless we find more supplies our flag project won't fly!

A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. Both clauses have a subject and a predicate, but a dependent clause does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone.

**Independent Clause** the people had little time to prepare

**Dependent Clause** before the storm began

**Complex Sentence** The people had little time to prepare before the storm began.

**Independent Clause** the plows could not clear the roads

**Dependent Clause** because the snow fell so fast

**Complex Sentence** Because the snow fell so fast, the plows could not clear the roads.

Draw one line under the dependent clause and two lines under the independent clause in these complex sentences.

1. When a big snowstorm is forecast, we make a special trip to the grocery store.
2. The store is crowded because everyone has heard the weather forecast.
3. As my mom and dad shop for the important supplies, I look for marshmallows.
4. Marshmallows and hot chocolate make a nice treat when you are snowed in.
5. If the electricity goes off, we will need our flashlights and candles.
6. Unless the weather forecast is wrong, we will not have school the next day.
7. I like to help build a fire in the fireplace when there is a big storm.
8. We toast marshmallows in the fire until we go to bed.
9. As the snow falls, we watch the friendly flames dance.
10. Because it is cold, we all sleep by the fire.

A complex sentence is made up of an independent clause and a dependent clause. A dependent clause begins with a subordinating conjunction. A dependent clause may come before or after the independent clause.

- When the dependent clause begins the sentence, separate the clauses with a comma.

If I save enough money, I can buy the next book in the series.

- When the independent clause begins the sentence, do not separate the clauses with a comma.

I can buy the next book in the series if I save enough money.

Punctuate the complex sentences as necessary.

1. When a new book is published in our favorite series we rush to the bookstore.
2. We read the last book again before we read the new one.
3. Because we all like the series my friends talk about the characters.

Rewrite each complex sentence by rearranging the clauses and changing the capitalization and punctuation.

4. After reading these books, I want to be an author.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. I want to write my own books although it will be difficult.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. If I work hard, I can succeed.

\_\_\_\_\_



Combine two short sentences to make your writing more interesting. One way to do this is to move key words and phrases from one sentence to another.

**Two Sentences** The aquarium is full of fish. It is in our living room.

**Combined Sentence** The aquarium **in our living room** is full of fish.

**Two Sentences** I chose all the fish. I chose them by myself.

**Combined Sentence** I chose all the fish **by myself**.

In the combined sentence, underline the phrase that comes from the second sentence of the combined pair.

1. Mark cleans the aquarium. He cleans it with a soft brush.

**Combined:** Mark cleans the aquarium with a soft brush.

2. The water is being cleaned all the time. The water is cleaned by a filter.

**Combined:** The water is being cleaned all the time by a filter.

Combine the two sentences by moving a phrase from the second sentence.

3. Mark and David go to Frank's Aquarium Store. They go on Saturdays.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Mark likes those angelfish. Those angelfish are in the tanks along the wall.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. David watches brightly colored fish. They are in a saltwater tank.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Frank scoops a striped fish out of the tank. He scoops it with a net.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

You can combine sentences with related ideas to form compound and complex sentences.

- Use a coordinating conjunction and a comma to build a compound sentence from simple sentences.

**Simple Sentences** This lake is very deep. The fish are plentiful.

**Compound Sentence** This lake is very deep, **and** the fish are plentiful.

- Use a subordinating conjunction to build a complex sentence from simple sentences.

**Simple Sentences** I am excited. I see a dragonfly.

**Complex Sentence** I am excited **because** I see a dragonfly.

Combine each pair of simple sentences to build a compound sentence or a complex sentence. Connect the simple sentences with the conjunction in parentheses ( ).

1. Dragonflies live at the lake. I am hoping to see some today. (and)

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2. They have been around for millions of years. They are threatened now. (but)

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3. Their habitat is disappearing. People are moving into their territory. (because)

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4. We should preserve the lake. Dragonflies need wetlands. (because)

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