

Combining Sentences

When should you combine sentences?

How to combine sentences

Inserting words and phrases

Using compound subjects and verbs

Creating compound sentences

Creating complex sentences

Review A

Review B

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



When should you combine sentences?

Too much of the same thing can be boring. ■

Imagine eating the same thing for lunch

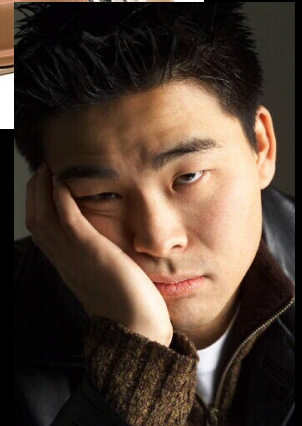
day...



after day...



after day...



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



When should you combine sentences?

Reading the same type of sentence over and over again can also be boring. ■

Now, see how **sentence combining** makes the paragraph shorter and more interesting. ■

A geyser is a spring **that** shoots hot water into the air with great force. **While** some geysers erupt continually, **some** remain dormant for long periods. ■



[End of Section]

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Inserting words and phrases

Combine short sentences by taking a **key word** from one sentence and inserting it into the other. ■

Edgar Allan Poe led a short, **tragic** life. **was** tragic. ■

You may have to change the form of the word. ■

Poe wrote strange, **horrifying** stories. **rifying** ries. ■

The Tell-Tale Heart



TIP

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Inserting words and phrases

You can also combine sentences by inserting a **phrase** from one sentence into another. ■

- Prepositional Phrase

This car can park easily in tight spaces. ■

- Participial Phrase

Focusing on the ball, Sam swung the bat. ■

- Appositive Phrase

There we met Chula, Sandra's dog. ■



PRACTICE

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

How to combine sentences

Inserting words and phrases

On Your Own

Combine each pair of sentences by inserting words or phrases. Some sentences may be combined in different ways. Hints in parentheses indicate changes to word forms.

1. Squirrels climbed up and down the tree. The tree was old.
2. The docks are at the end of a road. The road curves.
(Change *curves* to *curving*.)
3. Amy just got braces. Amy is a friend of mine.
4. Book three tells of the heroes' return. Book three completes the series. (Change *complete* to *completing*.)

Answer

[End of Section]

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Using compound subjects and verbs

You can also combine sentences by making **compound subjects** and **verbs**.

Step 1. Look for sentences that have the same subject or the same verb.

Ice reduces swelling.

Ice relieves pain.

Jaguars **have** spots.

Leopards **have** spots.

**SAME SUBJECT =
COMPOUND VERB**

**SAME VERB =
COMPOUND SUBJECT**

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Using compound subjects and verbs

Step 2. Join the verbs or subjects of the two sentences with a coordinating conjunction such as *and*, *or*, or *but*.

IF

Subjects are
the same



THEN

Keep the subject
and join the verbs

Verbs are
the same

swelling **and**

Keep the verb and
join the subjects

Jagu Jaguars **and** leopards have spots. is.

PRACTICE

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Using compound subjects and verbs

On Your Own

Combine each pair of sentences by forming a compound subject or a compound verb.

1. Plastic can be recycled. Paper can be recycled.
2. Glaciers move slowly. Glaciers shape the land.
3. A temple may have stood here once. A storehouse may have stood here.
4. Cranes nest near the lake. Other birds nest there, too.
5. The skier jumped far. He failed to beat the record.

Answer

[End of Section]

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Creating compound sentences

If the two sentences are **related** and **equally important**, you can form a **compound sentence**. ■



A compound sentence is made by joining the two sentences with

- a comma and a coordinating conjunction ■
- a semicolon ■

OR

- a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb

We went there; **however**, they came here.

TIP

PRACTICE

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Creating compound sentences

On Your Own

Combine each pair of sentences by forming a compound sentence.

1. Clients drop off scrap metal. Workers sort it into piles.
2. Adults must buy a ticket. Children get in free.
3. We already have milk. Buy just a half gallon.
4. I am not afraid of snakes. I used to keep one as a pet.
5. A French company began building the Panama Canal in 1881. The U.S. took over construction in 1903.

Answer

[End of Section]

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Creating complex sentences

Another way to combine sentences is to form a **complex sentence.** ■

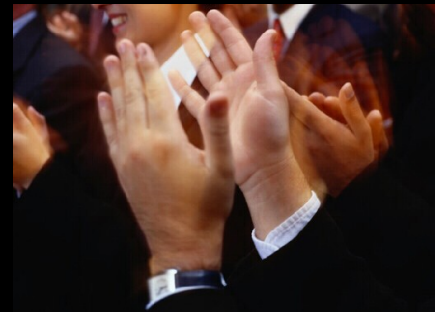
A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses. ■

Independent Clause

The audience clapped

Subordinate Clause

until the entire choir had left.



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

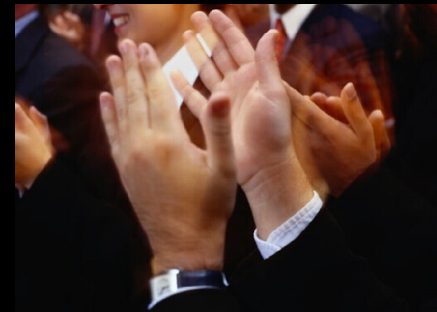
Creating complex sentences

Complex sentences can be reversible. Notice the addition of the comma after the subordinate clause. ■

Subordinate Clause

Independent Clause

Until the entire choir had left, the audience clapped.



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Creating complex sentences

There are three types of subordinate clauses: **adjective**, **adverb**, and **noun clauses**. Each type can replace an ordinary adjective, adverb, or noun. ■

- Adjective Clause

Gili wants the bicycle that is blue. ■

- Adverb Clause

I read the newspaper as I eat breakfast. ■

- Noun Clause

The detective revealed the culprit. He told the crime.

TIP

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

How to combine sentences

Creating complex sentences

Make one sentence into an **adjective clause** by replacing the subject with *who*, *which*, or *that*. ■

which

Many people fear bats. ■

~~They~~ are usually harmless. ■

Then, use the adjective clause to provide information about a noun or pronoun that has come before. ■

Many people fear bats, **which** are usually harmless.



TIP

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

How to combine sentences

Creating complex sentences

Turn one sentence into an **adverb clause** by adding a subordinating conjunction such as *after*, *although*, *because*, *if*, *when*, or *where*. ■

I called **before** I received your message. ■

If the adverb clause begins a sentence, follow the clause with a comma. ■

Before I received your message, I called.



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Creating complex sentences

Turn a sentence into a **noun clause** by adding a word like *that, how, what, who, or whoever* to the beginning of the sentence. ■

The coach told him **that** he had advanced to the finals. ■

Insert the clause into another sentence just as you would an ordinary noun. ■

**ORDINARY
NOUN**

The coach told him **the news.** ■

**NOUN
CLAUSE**

The coach told him **that he had advanced to the finals.**

TIP

PRACTICE

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



How to combine sentences

Creating complex sentences

On Your Own

Combine each pair of sentences by turning one sentence into an adjective, adverb, or noun clause, as indicated in parentheses.

1. This glue is like spider silk. Spider silk is very strong. (adjective clause)
2. The bridge was built. Before then, drivers had to take a ferry. (adverb clause)
3. We hope. You will visit us again. (noun clause)
4. The coin is very rare. I am holding the coin. (adjective clause).

Answer

[End of Section]

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Review A

Using all of the sentence-combining skills you have learned, combine each of the following pairs of sentences.

1. The large bird gave a cry. Its cry was noisy.
2. We found out. People have painted for thousands of years.
3. Daryl led the national anthem. Daryl is a trained singer.
4. Drops of rain fell into the fire. The fire let out clouds of steam.
5. Three plumbers have tried to fix the sink. It keeps leaking.

Answer

[End of Section]

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Review B

Using all of the sentence-combining skills you have learned, revise and rewrite the following paragraph without changing its original meaning.

Stonehenge is in southwestern England. It is a series of stones. They are huge stones. The stones weigh as much as fifty tons each. They were set up over five thousand years ago. They were moved by as many as one thousand people.

Answer

[End of Section]

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



The End

[← Back](#)

[Next →](#)

[Lesson Menu](#)

[Exit ✕](#)

