

Expand, Combine, or Reduce Sentences

A compound sentence is made up of two simple sentences joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction such as **and**, **or**, **but**, and **so**.

It was raining, **so** it was difficult to run the marathon.

and

or

but

so

Combine each pair of simple sentences to form a compound sentence. Use a comma and the correct coordinating conjunction from the box.

1. Mike twisted his ankle. He skinned his knee, too.

2. He wanted to play soccer. His coach advised against it.

3. Mike wanted to disregard the advice. He knew he shouldn't.

4. Should he watch the game? Should he go home instead?

5. Mike sat on the bench. His coach smiled in approval.

6. Mike wanted to participate. He made up cheers for his team.

Expand, Combine, or Reduce Sentences

A complex sentence consists of an independent clause and a dependent clause joined by a subordinating conjunction such as **although, since, because, until, while, that, when,** and **where**. If the conjunction begins the sentence, place a comma between the clauses.

I did my homework in the library **until** it closed.

Although I worked steadily, I didn't finish the assignments.

In each sentence, draw one line under the independent clause. Draw two lines under the dependent clause.

1. The baby elephant stayed close to the herd because there was a lion nearby.
2. The herd was on high alert while the lion remained.
3. The lion gave up in exasperation since he could not get near the calf.
4. Although the herd was nervous, it did not run away.

Combine each pair of clauses to form a complex sentence. Use one of the following subordinating conjunctions: *although, since, because, until, while, that, when, where*.

5. Ants work together for survival. They are social insects.

6. They are tiny. They are very strong.

Verb Tenses to Convey Sequence, States, and Conditions

Use the same verb tense to describe actions that happen at the same time.

Present: When the band **comes** on stage, the audience **shrieks**.

Past: When the band **came** on stage, the audience **shrieked**.

Change tenses to describe actions that happened at different times.

Past/Present: We **had left** by the time the band finally **showed up**.

Past/Future: I **have decided** that I **will not attend** their concerts ever again!

Write the form of the verb in () that correctly completes the sentence.

- I get stage fright every time I _____ in a play.
(will perform, perform)
- I worked really hard and _____ my lines perfectly.
(memorize, memorized)
- Carmen was painting scenery while Dan and I _____ our scenes.
(were rehearsing, are rehearsing)
- By the time the play was over, I _____.
(have relaxed, had relaxed)
- When the curtain came down, the audience stood up and _____.
(cheered, cheer)
- I will sign up for drama club again because I _____ how much I enjoy it.
(realize, will realize)
- Our teacher says that we _____ a musical next spring.
(had put on, will put on)

Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together to connect the parts of a sentence. **Either...or** and **neither...nor** are correlative conjunctions. **Either...or** means "one or the other." **Neither...nor** means "not one and not the other." **Either...or** gives options that are acceptable. **Neither...nor** gives no options that are acceptable.

I can wear **either** shorts **or** jeans to play soccer.

I can wear **neither** shorts **nor** jeans to my cousin's wedding.

Write two answers to the questions. Make your first answer positive: use *either...or*. Make your second answer negative: use *neither...nor*.

1. Do you want pizza? Do you want spaghetti?

2. Should we go to the movies or to the mall?

Rewrite each pair of sentences using the correlative conjunctions *either...or* or *neither...nor*.

3. A prairie dog is not a dog. It is not a gopher.

4. They do not bark. They do not howl.

5. Prairie dogs whistle. They yip.

6. Prairie dogs dig burrows. Prairie dogs move into existing burrows.

Commas to Set Off Words

Location of Comma in Dialogue	Example
Place a comma before the opening quotation mark after the speaker's tag.	Sonia asked, "Do you see the school bus?"
Place a comma inside the end quotation mark if the speaker's tag comes after the quote. Drop the comma, however, if the quote ends in a question mark or an exclamation point.	"I don't see it coming," answered Jamie.

Rewrite each sentence, adding commas where necessary.

1. Julio asked "Mom, can Frank and I go to the movies?"

2. Mom asked "Have you cleaned your room?"

3. "I put all my things away" answered Julio.

4. Mom said "That's great! Have fun."

5. "Thanks! See you later" said Julio.

6. Frank said "I have money for popcorn!"

7. "Save room for dinner" Mom said.

8. "We will, we promise" Julio said.

Commas to Set Off Words

Purpose of Comma in Dialogue	Example
to indicate direct address	"Ann, do you want to walk?"
to set off introductory words like yes and no	"No, my backpack is too heavy."
to set off a tag question	"We won't be late, will we?"

Rewrite each sentence, adding commas where necessary.

1. "Are you trying out for the play Nadya?" asked Gina.

2. "Yes I want to play Bill's sister" she said.

3. Gina said "Oh that's the part I want!"

4. Nadya said "We can share the part can't we?"

5. "Yes Gina. I can play it on Friday" said Nadya.

6. Gina replied "Yes and I'll play it on Saturday right?"

7. "Exactly that is a good compromise," Nadya said.

8. "I am excited to share the part with you Nadya!" Gina replied.
