

Compound Sentences

Useful Information

A sentence that expresses two complete thoughts is a compound sentence.

In a compound sentence, two independent clauses can be joined by a comma and a conjunction. Each clause has a subject and a verb.

When you are writing, it would be strange to only use short, simple sentences. Instead, try making some compound sentences.

'I do not like eating meat.' is a simple sentence.

'I love vegetables.' is also a simple sentence.

By putting the two sentences together and joining them with a conjunction, we can make a much more interesting compound sentence.

'I do not like eating meat' + but + 'I love vegetables.'

'I do not like eating meat, but I love vegetables.'

Remember, commas are not conjunctions and they should never be used to join two sentences together. (Commas are not sticky, so you can't use them to stick information together!)

Challenge 1

Join the following sentences together to make compound sentences. Choose a suitable conjunction.

1. I enjoy reading. I don't enjoy cooking.
2. Ben is thoughtful. He always plays with me when I'm lonely.
3. Kate walked home from school slowly. She was tired.
4. Babies cry all the time. They can get some attention from their mum.
5. Year Five is a hardworking class. All of the children want to do well at school.
6. I can use simple sentences in my writing. I can use compound ones to make it more interesting.

Challenge 2

Tell whether or not each sentence is a compound sentence. Write compound or not compound next to the sentence.

1. Mr. Dubois is fixing the roof on his house.
2. Chloe and her friends went to the cinema, but they didn't buy any popcorn.
3. Brandon went to the football game last night, but his favourite team lost.
4. Dr. Brown said I could come to his office on Wednesday or I could come on Thursday of next week.
5. I'm going to buy a new tablet computer or I might buy a new mobile phone.
6. Grandma is a terrific cook, and we love staying at her house.
7. I'm going to pick up cheese, crackers, and juice at the shop.
8. Would you like some hot chocolate or orange juice?

Challenge 3

1. Write a compound sentence. Draw a red line under the first independent clause. Draw a blue line under the second independent clause.

2. Write another compound sentence. Draw a green line under the conjunction.

Challenge 4

Explain why each compound sentence is incorrectly written:

- a) I wanted to visit my cousin, I didn't have enough money for a bus ticket.

- b) My dog lost her favourite toy, I bought her a new one.

Compound Sentences – Answers

Challenge 1

Example answers (other co-ordinating conjunction choices are possible):

1. I enjoy reading but I don't enjoy cooking.
2. Ben is thoughtful and he always plays with me when I'm lonely.
3. Kate walked home from school slowly for she was tired.
4. Babies cry all the time so they can get some attention from their mum.
5. Year Five is a hardworking class and all of the children want to do well at school.
6. I can use simple sentences in my writing but I can use compound ones to make it more interesting.

Challenge 2

1. Mr. Dubois is fixing the roof on his house. – **not compound**
2. Chloe and her friends went to the cinema but they didn't buy any popcorn. – **compound**
3. Brandon went to the football game last night but his favourite team lost. – **compound**
4. Dr. Brown said I could come to his office on Wednesday or I could come on Thursday of next week. – **compound**
5. I'm going to buy a new tablet computer or I might buy a new mobile phone. – **compound**
6. Grandma is a terrific cook and we love staying at her house. – **compound**
7. I'm going to pick up cheese, crackers, and juice at the shop. – **not compound**
8. Would you like some hot chocolate or orange juice? – **not compound**

Challenge 3

1. Write a compound sentence. Draw a red line under the first independent clause. Draw a blue line under the second independent clause.

Example answer: I don't like sprouts but I do like cabbage

2. Write another compound sentence. Draw a green line under the conjunction.

Example answer: I was feeling very tired yet I still went to football training.

Challenge 4

Explain why each compound sentence is incorrectly written:

- a. I wanted to visit my cousin, I didn't have enough money for a bus ticket.

The compound sentence needs the co-ordinating conjunction 'but' instead of the comma.

- b. My dog lost her favourite toy, I bought her a new one. Please note that this question needs changing as there was nothing wrong with it!

The co-ordinating conjunction 'yet' doesn't fit into this sentence. It needs replacing with 'so' or 'and'.