



Combining Sentences

Combining sentences is important because it helps to keep the reader's interest. A writer should want their text to be consumed by the reader in a versatile manner that flows and sustains the reader's interest. This can be achieved by intermixing sentences of differing length and by combining consecutive short sentences into a single sentence. Also, combining sentences allows the writer to exhibit higher-level writing, and the reader can better focus on the writer's content.

Compounding Sentences

A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses, and usually these are 2 units of thought in 1 sentence. Clauses can either be separated by a semicolon OR a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so).

⇒ **Example:** They sailed by the rusted hulk of the derelict ship. It was a sight to behold. ⇒
They sailed by the rusted hulk of the derelict **ship; it** was a sight to behold. They sailed by
the rusted hulk of the derelict ship, **and** it was a sight to behold.

Combining Subjects

When two or more subjects are doing parallel activities, they can be combined as a compounded subject.

⇒ **Example:** The Cubans engaged the South African forces. The Angolans fought the South African forces too. ⇒ The Cubans **and** Angolans fought the South Africans.

Combining Objects

When the subject is acting upon 2 or more things then the objects can be combined. Combining objects only works when that object is the recipient of the same verb; otherwise, it would be considered compounding sentences.

⇒ **Example:** Allen Dulles said that he was proud of the Guatemala coup. Dulles was excited to install a pro-American government. ⇒ Allen Dulles said that he was proud of the

Subordinating One Clause to Another

Subordinating one clause to another shows that one clause depends on another in some way.

⇒ **Example:** Sheldon likes hip-hop. Lewis does not like hip-hop. Sheldon switched the radio station. ⇒ **Although** Sheldon likes **hip-hop**, **Lewis** does **not**, **so Sheldon** switched the radio station.



Using Participial Phrases to Connect Ideas

Two sentences can be combined by turning one clause into a modifying phrase.

- ⇒ **Example:** The hockey goalie kept his glove high and in front of his body. This allowed the goalie to make an excellent save. ⇒ **Keeping his glove high and in front of him,** the hockey goalie was able to make an excellent save.

Practice

Combine each set of short sentences and fragments into one sentence

1. I always wear anklets. The reason why is because they draw attention to my beautiful feet.
2. Fred was my goldfish. That was in grade school. Fred was a good pet for a while. Before I got a dog.
3. I threw a banana peel on the ground. It was garbage. Because there wasn't a garbage can. A man slipped on it and fell.
4. My friend's name is Francoise. He is Algerian. He loves to play chess. Loves to make wine too.
5. My ex-girlfriend gave me a mounted moose head. That is why it hangs in my apartment. Still, I don't really care for it. I don't need it. We're not together anymore.

Combine these four pairs of sentences using the coordinating conjunctions listed below. Use each conjunction (and, but, or, so, yet, nor) only one time.

1. My personal trainer warned me about trying to sculpt my arms too quickly. I am jealous of all the attention my bodybuilder colleague gets.
2. The sinkhole in the middle of the road continues to grow bigger. If the authorities don't get involved it could become a larger problem.
3. This energy drink has electrolytes. I don't know what electrolytes do.
4. The anger of the miners grows every day. The executives aren't worried because they have an inexhaustible supply of cheap labor.

Further Assistance: For more detailed help or if you have questions, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library or call 815-836-5427.

Sources Consulted: St. Xavier University English Department, Brigham Young University Linguistics Department