



Combining Sentences

Why Combine Sentences?

Combining sentences is important because it avoids monotony by keeping and holding 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.

BECOMES

They sailed by the rusted hulk of the derelict **ship**; **it** was a sight to behold.

OR

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.

BECOMES

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.

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

BECOMES

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

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.

BECOMES

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.

BECOMES

Keeping his glove high and in front of him, the hockey goalie was able to make an excellent save.



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 only one time.

and, but, or, so, yet, nor

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.

Works Consulted: St. Xavier University English Department

Brigham Young University Linguistics Department

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.