

# COMPOUND & COMPLEX SENTENCES

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A simple sentence (independent clause) has one subject and one verb.	I hate cheese. I don't like pizza.
A compound sentence is made up of two or more simple sentences (independent clauses).	I hate cheese, so I don't like pizza. John can go to the party, or he can stay home and study.
There are several ways to join simple sentences into a compound sentence. One way is to use <b>a comma and a coordinating conjunction</b> .	<b>for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</b> I went swimming today, <b>for</b> the water was beautiful. He wants to do well in school, <b>yet</b> he doesn't study.
The coordinating conjunction describes the relationship between the two ideas.	<b>For</b> – reason <b>And</b> – plus <b>Nor</b> – no alternative <b>But</b> – opposites <b>Or</b> – choice <b>Yet</b> – contrast <b>So</b> -- result
Another way to join simple sentences is to use a semicolon. A semicolon can only join two complete sentences. It cannot join a sentence and a fragment.	She packed her bags; she left the house. I hate cheese; I don't like pizza. James did his homework; Sophia did not.
A compound sentence can also be formed by using <b>a semicolon, a transitional word or expression, and a comma</b> . Transitional words are also referred to as conjunctive adverbs.	I hate cheese; <b>however</b> , I love pizza. Agatha partied all semester; <b>consequently</b> , her grades were poor. Vincent has a lot of money; <b>in fact</b> , he will pay cash for his car.
An <b>independent clause</b> can stand alone as a sentence. A <b>dependent clause</b> cannot stand alone as a sentence; it needs other words to complete its meaning. A <b>complex sentence</b> is made up of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.	We looked out the window. ( <b>independent clause</b> ) When we heard the loud noise. ( <b>dependent clause</b> ) When we heard the loud noise, we looked out the window. ( <b>complex sentence</b> )
We can form complex sentences by joining two simple sentences with <b>a subordinating conjunction</b> , such as <b>when, because, or since</b> .	We looked out the window. We heard the loud noise. <b>When</b> we heard the loud noise, we looked out the window. Jim was not at school yesterday. He was sick. Jim was not at school yesterday <b>because</b> he was sick.
Place a comma after the dependent clause when it comes before the independent clause.	<b>Because</b> I hate cheese, I don't like pizza.
Do not use a comma when the dependent clause comes after the independent clause.	I don't like pizza <b>because</b> I hate cheese.

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## LEARN MORE

*Don't forget: students can always ask tutors or their teachers for an explanation of anything that's not clear.*

Texts available to use in the SLC English Writing Lab:

<i>Grassroots with Readings</i> , Ninth Edition Susan Fawcett Chapters 13 and 14	<i>Evergreen, A Guide to Writing with Readings</i> , Ninth Edition, Susan Fawcett Chapter 26	<i>The Bedford Handbook</i> , Seventh Edition, Diana Hacker Pages 838-39
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**Online:**

[Grassroots Companion Site](#)

[Evergreen Companion Site](#)

[Sentences: Simple, Compound, and Complex](#)

[Quiz on Sentence Types](#)

[Kinds of Sentences and Their Punctuation](#)

[Review: Sentence Structure](#)

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## PRACTICE

### Coordinating Conjunctions

for and nor but or yet so

In the following sentences, join the two sentences with a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

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|---|
| 1. Dave woke up late. He ran all the way to the bus.        |
| 2. Tim's joke was not funny. His girlfriend laughed anyway. |
| 3. He walked to the store. He bought what he needed.        |
| 4. I won't go swimming here. There is no lifeguard.         |
| 5. He wants to buy a new car. He doesn't save any money.    |

### Semicolons

Place a semicolon in the proper place in the following sentences.

- |   |
|---|
| 1. I don't like this food it is too spicy.                    |
| 2. He shouldn't have done that he knows better.               |
| 3. You are going the wrong way make a u-turn now.             |
| 4. The sky is bright and clear the mountains are spectacular. |
| 5. The thief crept into the house he didn't make a sound.     |

### Transitions

Choose from the transition words and phrases below to join the following pairs of sentences.

however nevertheless in addition consequently moreover

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|--|
| 1. He arrived late for class. He missed the first half of the lecture.                                       |
| 2. Lulu is not very pretty. She is loved by everyone.  |
| 3. The county can't afford to build any more schools. It has to cancel plans for other government buildings. |
| 4. His mother told him to take his umbrella. He went to work without it.                                     |
| 5. His girlfriend wants him to give her a beautiful ring. She expects him to buy her expensive clothing.     |