

Sentence Structure 3 – Compound Sentences

1. Read the sentence below. How many clauses are there in each sentence? Underline the clauses. Highlight the **subject** and **verb** in each clause.

The Silk Road started in the 2nd century BCE, and it lasted for approximately 1600 years.

Are they **independent** or **dependent** clauses? An **independent** clause has its own complete meaning; it does not *need* another clause.

A compound sentence is a sentence where two or more independent clauses are joined together.

The clauses in a compound sentence can be joined together in two ways.

- **A comma + conjunction (FANBOYS - for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)**

*These trade routes first started to develop about 2000 years ago, **and** they connected the cultures of China, India, Persia, Arabia, Greece and Rome.*

- **A semicolon + transition word + comma** (There are many transition words. They often mean the same as FANBOYS, but they have a more formal tone. Examples are: *however, nevertheless, therefore, consequently, in addition, moreover.*

*The name 'Silk Road' makes us think of a continuous journey; **however**, very few people travelled the whole route.*

2. Underline the compound sentences in the following texts.

Persians and Romans were fond of Chinese silk, and this created greater trade along the Silk Road. The Roman traded silk for the same weight in gold. During the Chinese Tang dynasty thirty percent of the trade on the Silk Road consisted of silk; however, many other valuable goods were also traded.

By the mid 8th century, under the Tang dynasty, the Silk Road had reached its peak. This was largely due to the internal stability and economic development. The Chinese government carried out many favorable trade policies, and this greatly helped in the development of the Silk Road.

- 3. Write the following two clauses as three compound sentences using the two different methods of punctuation.**

the Silk road was a difficult and dangerous journey

it was the only way for China to connect with the West before the 10th century

- 4. Rewrite the three examples from student's essays below to make correct compound sentences.**

There are many examples of ancient architecture, the Hanging Gardens is one of these.

The Hanging Gardens were in ancient Mesopotamia they was built by King Nebuchadnezzar in 604-562 BCE.

The Hanging Gardens were in the middle of the desert there were many different plants and trees in the gardens.

- 5. Look at a paragraph you have recently written. Find any compound sentences and underline the clauses. How have you joined the clauses? Annotate and correct any mistakes you have made.**

Review

Compound sentences are two or more independent clauses joined together by a conjunction or a transition word.