

I'm not a robot



Compound sentence example

A compound sentence is a sentence that connects two independent clauses, either with a coordinating conjunction like and or with a semicolon (;). Use compound sentences to combine two or more self-sufficient but related sentences into a single, unified one. A compound sentence requires at least two subjects and two verbs. Sentences with one subject and two verbs or with two subjects and one verb are still simple sentences, not compound sentences. Be careful with run-on sentences, which add too many clauses to a single sentence or connect clauses incorrectly. Compound sentences are similar to complex sentences; the difference is that complex sentences use subordinating conjunctions to connect clauses, while compound sentences use coordinating conjunctions. Compound sentences give your writing a faster pace and unite related ideas, but they have a few more rules than standard sentences. Here, we'll explain how to use compound sentences correctly in your writing. The AI writing assistant for anyone with work to do to Table of contents What is a compound sentence? Examples of compound sentences Rules of compound sentences Common mistakes with compound sentences Compound vs. complex sentences Compound sentences FAQs What is a compound sentence? A compound sentence is a sentence that combines two or more independent clauses. The key here is independent clauses, which are clauses that contain both a subject and a verb, meaning they can each stand alone as a separate sentence. Essentially, a compound sentence brings together individual, related sentences as one. Simple sentences: My name is Montoya. I'm here for the interview. Compound sentence: My name is Montoya, and I'm here for the interview. Compound sentence: My name is Montoya; I'm here for the interview. Compound sentence structure Compound sentences usually use a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction, which are small words used to connect other words and phrases in a sentence. You might remember coordinating conjunctions as the FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so. Additionally, compound sentences can also use a semicolon to connect two clauses, in which case no conjunction is necessary. Let's look at some compound sentence examples to see how they work. Below are two simple complete sentences, each with its own subject and verb: I have a pet iguana. His name is Fluffy. To combine them into a compound sentence, we simply add a comma plus the coordinating conjunction and: I have a pet iguana, and his name is Fluffy. Alternatively, we can make a compound sentence by adding only a semicolon, and the sentence will still be correct: I have a pet iguana; his name is Fluffy. Although they're talking about the same topic, the subject of each independent clause is different: The first clause's subject is I, and the second clause's subject is name. That's part of what makes them independent, and a sentence is considered compound only when it consists of independent clauses. For example, the sentence below is not a compound sentence: I have a pet iguana whose name is Fluffy. Examples of compound sentences Let's look at some more compound sentence examples from some of history's greatest writers: "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." —Lao Tzu "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." —Oscar Wilde "You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated." —Mother Teresa Rules of compound sentences 1. A compound sentence needs at least two subjects and two verbs. If both independent clauses use the same subject, it must be stated twice, as in the quote below, for the sentence to be compound: "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." —Mother Teresa 2. Sentences with two subjects and one verb or with one subject and two verbs are not compound sentences. Not compound: Adelaide and I sing our hearts tonight. Not compound: Adelaide sings and dances at the same time. Each sentence has only one independent clause. One subject, one verb, and two actions. That leads to a run-on sentence. A run-on sentence is a common English writing mistake that happens when a sentence incorrectly connects clauses. In writing, run-on sentences are both grammatically incorrect and challenging for your reader to understand. To avoid both run-on sentences and confusingly long compound sentences, limit the number of clauses in a sentence to two or three. In situations when you need more than three clauses, keep them as short as possible by removing unnecessary words. I woke up, the clock said 9:00 so I panicked and took a shower, got ready, ate breakfast, and ran out the door, but then I looked at my phone, it said it was actually Saturday and I had the day off. I woke up, and the clock said 9:00, so I panicked, I took a shower, got ready, ate breakfast, and ran out the door. Then I looked at my phone; it said it was actually Saturday. I had the day off. Remember, short sentences are easier to understand and give your writing a faster pace. And alternating between longer and shorter sentences gives your writing rhythm and keeps your reader engaged. Connecting unrelated sentences Even if you have two independent clauses, you won't connect them unless they're related. The two clauses should describe each other or add relevant details; otherwise, they're better off as two separate sentences. I couldn't sleep that night, but there would be breakfast at the school tomorrow. Of course, you can always rephrase the clauses to show their relation and then connect them. I couldn't sleep that night, but it was reassuring to know there would be breakfast at the school tomorrow. Want to make sure you're using compound sentences correctly in your writing? Grammarly points out any grammar and punctuation mistakes you might have missed, including run-on sentences and missing commas before conjunctions. Compound vs. complex sentences It's easy to confuse compound sentences with complex sentences; both use two or more independent clauses. The most significant difference, however, is the type of clauses they use. Compound sentences use two or more independent clauses. I am working now, but we will eat later. Complex sentences combine independent clauses with subordinate clauses, also known as dependent clauses. Because I am working now, it will eat later. In this example, because is the subordinate clause, and we will eat later is the independent clause. The clue is the word because, which is a subordinating conjunction. Words like because, if, whenever, and since—and certain prepositions like after and before—all act as subordinating conjunctions. Their job is to connect subordinate clauses to independent clauses. By adding a subordinating conjunction, you can turn an independent clause into a subordinate clause. I am working now alone is an independent clause, but with because in front, it becomes a subordinate clause. Compound-complex sentences A sentence can be both complex and compound at the same time. A compound-complex sentence occurs when a single sentence has at least two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause. After I got home from work is the subordinate clause (you can tell because the verb is in the past tense), and I left my apartment again is an independent clause, joined by the coordinating conjunction and. Put all three clauses together with the proper punctuation, and you will have a perfectly correct compound-complex sentence. Compound sentences FAQs What are compound sentences? Compound sentences are sentences with two or more independent clauses. An independent clause includes both a subject and a verb, making it a complete thought. Essentially, a compound sentence combines related but separate ideas into a single, cohesive statement. How do you form a compound sentence? There are two ways to form a compound sentence. First, you can separate the independent clauses with a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction like and, but, or, or. (I am tired, but I will finish my work.) Second, you can place a semicolon between the clauses without a conjunction. (I am tired; I will finish my work.) What's the difference between compound sentences and complex sentences? While a compound sentence uses two or more independent clauses, a complex sentence uses one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause. Unlike independent clauses, subordinate clauses cannot stand on their own as a separate sentence. Complex sentences also use subordinating conjunctions, while compound sentences use coordinating conjunctions. Can a sentence be both compound and complex? Yes, and these are called compound-complex sentences. A compound-complex sentence combines at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. Compound sentences help us explain complex ideas, highlight essential thoughts, and ensure the information flows smoothly. Compound sentence construction is a skill that can help us communicate more effectively and hold the attention of readers or listeners. Using compound sentences can improve the quality and impact of your communication, whether you're writing an essay, delivering a speech, or having a casual conversation. Remember to fill in the blanks with appropriate coordinating conjunctions or conjunctive adverbs to create compound sentences. She went to the store, _____ he stayed at home. I enjoy reading, _____ love watching movies. The sun was shining brightly, _____ we decided to go for a picnic. The dog barked loudly, _____ the cat ran away. He studied hard for the exam, _____ he still didn't pass. She wants to travel to Europe, _____ she'll go to Asia. I'll make dinner, _____ you can set the table. He loves playing soccer, _____ he joined a local team. She is both intelligent _____ kind. They were tired, _____ they continued hiking up the mountain. Azizul Hakim is the founder & CEO of englishfinders.com. He is a passionate writer, English instructor, and content creator. He has completed his graduation and post-graduation in English language and literature. Last updated on January 4th, 2025 at 10:55 amIn this lesson, we'll discuss the 50 useful examples of compound sentences. A compound sentence consists of two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or). Let us know the definition of the compound sentence. As we know, compound sentences are two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. This can be done with a semicolon or comma, depending on the type of conjunction and the structure of the sentence. Let us see some examples: I have chosen a bike, and I want to buy this bike. She is busy enough, but she agrees to join the team meeting. She went to the store, and he stayed at home. Janat knew the story; she didn't want to acknowledge it. She likes cold coffee, she orders it from an online shop. Compound sentences are most often used to create emphasis and to share background knowledge in order to present a more complete idea. Here's an example: Molly loves running and swimming. Now it's time to see the 50 useful examples of compound sentences in English grammar. I enjoy reading, but I also love watching movies. 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You are my true friend; you were so helpful yesterday. I am sure that he is guilty, and I will prove it in court tomorrow. I have been considering your proposal; I have decided to accept your offer. He is a handsome boy, and many people like him. She was aware of the risks; she agreed to take them anyway. I am sure that he will help me; I will ask him tomorrow. Let's go there, but I don't know if you agree with me. He was ready to go out; he had already put on his shoes. She liked the film but thought it could be better in some ways. I am sure that he is innocent; I have known him for a long time. I know that you will like this movie; it is hilarious. You can do this job; you are so intelligent and talented. He was told to leave the building but didn't listen to the security guard. You should eat healthier food, or be overweight in two years. She didn't want to tell me how old she was, but she had a teenage son. She doesn't want to tell me how old she is, and I respect her privacy. He didn't want to tell me how old he was, so I pretended not to notice it. You don't need to tell; I already know what you think about this matter. She is a good person, but she can sometimes be insulting. He was handsome, and his personality was good too. The movie was entertaining, but the ending was disappointing. He is not happy about this; he wants to do something else. I hope you will like this movie; it is fascinating. We are not lazy; we want to finish everything before the deadline. He didn't know how to answer; he was speechless for a few seconds. He bought a new car, and he also bought a motorcycle. I didn't think that this film would be so interesting. I am glad I watched it. I was too fond of how she spoke to me; I couldn't express it in words. He was surprised when he saw his teacher in the restaurant; he thought she was on vacation. She is a great person; everyone likes her very much. I apologize for what I did last time; it won't happen again. We apologize for being late today; there was an accident on the road, and the traffic was terrible. They play badminton in the playground, and many crowds watch the game. Effective writing and communication require the use of compound sentences. They give our sentences variety and a logical relationship between concepts by allowing us to join two independent clauses. Using coordinating conjunctions or conjunctive adverbs, we can indicate opposing, additive, or sequential relationships between the clauses. Compound sentences help us explain complex ideas, highlight essential thoughts, and ensure the information flows smoothly. Compound sentence construction is a skill that can help us communicate more effectively and hold the attention of readers or listeners. Using compound sentences can improve the quality and impact of your communication, whether you're writing an essay, delivering a speech, or having a casual conversation. 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