

SENTENCE COMBINING

Combining sentences allows writers to avoid unnecessary repetition, provide emphasis, and improve sentence variety. Here are a few of the many ways to combine sentences.

1. Combine by using a compound sentence or complex sentence. (Also see #3 below.)

John is an excellent cook. I like to eat at his house.

John is an excellent cook, so I like to eat at his house. (compound sentence)

I like to eat at John's house, for he is an excellent cook. (compound sentence)

Since John is an excellent cook, I like to eat at his house. (complex sentence)

I like to eat at John's house since he is an excellent cook. (complex sentence)

(Note: The two sentences above contain adverb clauses.)

2. Combine by making a list.

Ann is a good baseball player. She is a good swimmer. She is a good golfer.

Ann is a good baseball player, swimmer, and golfer.

3. Combine by using an appositive or relative clause (adjective clause).

Jason is an Eagle Scout. He is also an honor student.

Jason, an Eagle scout, is also an honor student. (appositive)

Jason, who is an Eagle Scout, is also an honor student. (relative clause)

(Note: A sentence with a relative clause is also a complex sentence.)

4. Combine by using a past or present participle phrase or compound predicate.

Kate was finished with the report. She left for the game.

Finished with the report, Kate left for the game. (past participle phrase)

Kate, finished with the report, left for the game. (past participle phrase)

Having finished the report, Kate left for the game. (present participle phrase)

Kate, having finished the report, left for the game. (present participle phrase)

Kate finished the report and left for the game. (compound predicate)