

What Are Compound Sentences?

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Using
Compound
and Complex
Sentences

A **simple sentence** is a sentence with only one subject and one predicate. Both the subject and the predicate of a simple sentence may be compound.

A **compound sentence** consists of two or more simple sentences joined together. The parts of a compound sentence are joined either by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*and, but, or*) or by a semicolon (;).

We earned nine dollars, *and* we put it in the bank.
The sun was up; the morning beckoned.

Using compound sentences helps to make your writing more interesting and readable.

Analyzing Compound Sentences Underline the subject once and the verb twice in each part of the compound sentence. Circle the conjunction or semicolon.

Example saw the light, (and) I followed it.

1. Toshi went to the mall on Saturday, but Jody stayed home.
2. Ms. Ballak may be in court, or she may be in her office.
3. Snow fell; winter was now upon us.
4. wrote her several times, but I never got an answer.
5. We could play a video game, or we could go to Jim's house.
6. Lawyers argue cases, but judges decide them
7. Greg shoveled the snow, and his brother began a snow sculpture.
8. Charlene clutched at the brake, and the bike finally stopped.
9. Everyone played pretty well, but Jenny scored the winning basket.
10. You can walk to school today, or you can take the bus.
11. She calls it a dragonfly; I call it a darning needle.
12. The clown made a face; the child burst into laughter.
13. Kathy phoned this morning, but our phone was out of order.
14. The boat nosed up to the dock; our trip was finally over.
15. He plays sports a great deal, but he studies hard too.
16. Lou has been baking bread; Connie is making a big salad.