

LANGUE ECRITE 1

Exercises on **compound** and **complex** sentences.

A **compound sentence** consists of two or more simple sentences (or independent clauses) joined by the conjunction and, but, or or (also for, nor, or yet). Observe that there is a complete thought—a complete sentence—with a subject and a verb both before and after the conjunction in a compound sentence.

- Lydia tried to push to the front of the line, but the other customers would not let her through. (Notice the position of the COMMA.)
- Harry really enjoys ravioli, and his father works in a department store. WHY IS THIS SENTENCE NOT POSSIBLE?

A **complex sentence** consists of one independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses. There are 1) adverb subordinate clauses, 2) adjective subordinate clauses (also called relative clauses), and 3) noun subordinate clauses.

Adverb clause: When metal is heated, it expands. (when=subordinating conjunction)

Adjective clause: The book that she was reading did not hold her interest. (that=relative pronoun: answers question “which book?”)

Noun clause: He told me that the bus was late. (that=subordinating conjunction. We have the pattern S—V—dO.

Exercise 1: Put a comma before the conjunction in each compound sentence and prove that it is compound by underling the subject and the verb in each independent clause. Add no comma to any sentence containing a compound predicate (two verbs joined by a coordinating conjunction).

1. The secretary counted the votes and he announced the results.
2. The secretary counted the votes and announced the results.
3. The mechanic checked the motor but could find nothing wrong.
4. Good judgment comes from experience and experience comes from bad judgment.
5. The referee stopped the game and chased the dog off the field.
6. The pay checks came in handy but the experience was worth even more.
7. The squirrels raced up and down the tree trunks and leaped from branch to branch.
8. The essay is well worded but its organization can be improved.
9. You can open the World Almanac anywhere and find interesting facts.
10. Rita pounded the candy machine with her fist but nothing came out.