

# Combining Sentences

When is it a good idea to combine sentences?

How to combine sentences

Inserting words and phrases

Coordinating ideas

Compound subjects, verbs, and objects

Compound sentences

Subordinating ideas

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# When is it a good idea to combine sentences?

Too much of the same thing can be boring. ▾



Too many short, choppy sentences in your writing can put your reader to sleep.

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## When is it a good idea to combine sentences?

Look for ways to combine sentences when ▾

- consecutive sentences have the same subject and verb ▾

The *Titanic* was the largest ship of its time. The *Titanic* was also the most luxurious ship of its time. The *Titanic* was on its maiden voyage. ▾

- your sentences have the same word order, pattern, or rhythm ▾

The **accident happened** at night. The **night was** clear and cold. The **date was** April 14, 1912. ▾

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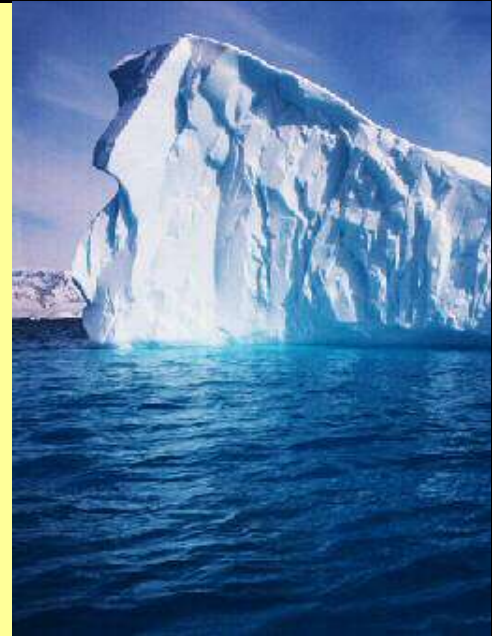
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## When is it a good idea to combine sentences?

Do these sentences hold *your* attention? ▼

The sinking of the ***Titanic***, the largest and most luxurious ship of its time, was one of the worst maritime disasters in history. On the clear, cold night of April 14, 1912, the ship, which was on its maiden voyage, struck an iceberg near Newfoundland.



**Sentence combining** makes the paragraph shorter, more precise, and more interesting. ▼

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# How to combine sentences

## Inserting words and phrases

Combine short sentences by taking a **key word** from one sentence and inserting it into the other. ▼

Magicians **closely** guard the secrets of their tricks. ▼

They guard their secrets **closely**. ▼

You may have to change the form of the word. ▼

Houdini performed **seemingly** impossible escapes.

The escapes only **seemingly** possible. ▼

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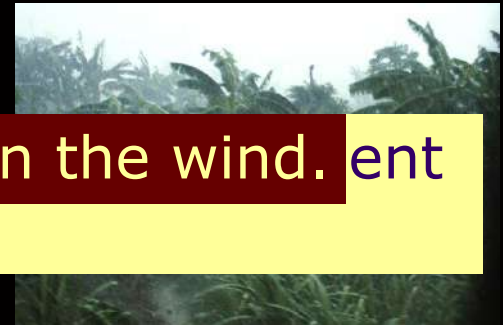


# How to combine sentences

## Inserting words and phrases

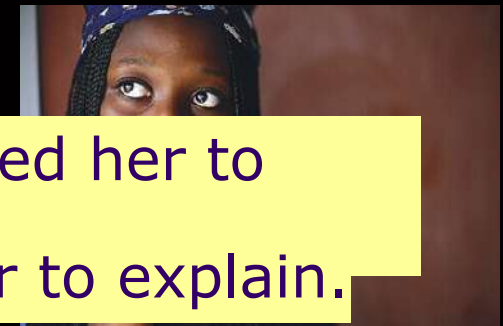
You can also combine sentences by inserting a **phrase** from one sentence into another. ▼

- Prepositional Phrase



The trees were bent nearly double **in the wind.** **ent**  
**in the wind.** ▼

- Participial Phrase



I was **puzzled by her behavior** I asked her to explain.  
**Puzzled by her behavior,** I asked her to explain. ▼

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# How to combine sentences

## Inserting words and phrases

You can also combine sentences by inserting a **phrase** from one sentence into another. ▼

### •Absolute Phrases

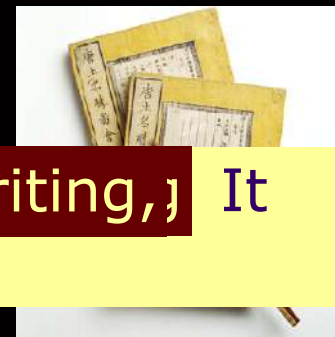
The wind started gusting. Constance returned home. ▼

The wind gusting, Constance returned home. ▼



### •Appositive Phrases

Calligraphy, an elegant form of handwriting, It requires a special pen or brush. ▼



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# How to combine sentences

## Inserting words and phrases

### On Your Own

Combine each pair of sentences by inserting words or phrases. Some sentences may be combined in different ways. Hints in parentheses indicate changes to word forms.

1. Natalie opened the trunk slowly. The trunk was antique.
2. She moved some papers aside. She peered deeper into the trunk. (Change *moved* to *moving*.)
3. She found the photographs. They were at the bottom of the trunk.
4. Natalie lifted the top photograph. She lifted it with care. (Change *care* to *carefully*.)

Answer

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# How to combine sentences

## Coordinating ideas

You can also join equally important **words**, **phrases**, and **clauses** by using coordinating conjunctions or correlative conjunctions. ▼

This bike needs **brakes**.

This bike needs **brakes and** a **taillight**. ▼

It needs a **taillight**.

We saw **the surface of the moon and**  
**the rings of Saturn**. ▼

We also saw the rings of Saturn.

Kris liked the jacket, **but** it was too  
**expensive**. ▼

It was too expensive.

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# How to combine sentences

## Compound subjects, verbs, and objects

You can combine sentences by making compound subjects, verbs, direct objects, or indirect objects. ▼

**Step 1.** Look for sentences that have the same subject, verb, or object. ▼

**He** plays basketball.

**He** likes baseball more.

Nick **sings** well.

Sharon **sings** well.

I like **grapefruit**.

Matt likes **grapefruit**.

**Same subject** ▼

**Same verb** ▼

**Same object**

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# How to combine sentences

## Compound subjects, verbs, and objects

**Step 2.** Join the verbs, subjects, or objects of the two sentences with a coordinating conjunction or a correlative conjunction.

**IF**

the subjects are  
the same,

**THEN**

keep the subject  
and join the verbs.

He p

He e



more.

He plays basketball **but**  
enjoys baseball more.

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# How to combine sentences

## Compound subjects, verbs, and objects

**Step 2.** Join the verbs, subjects, or objects of the two sentences with a coordinating conjunction or a correlative conjunction.

**IF**

the verbs are  
the same,

**THEN**

keep the verb and  
join the subjects.

Nick  
Sharon



**Both** Nick **and** Sharon **sing**  
well.

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# How to combine sentences

## Compound subjects, verbs, and objects

**Step 2.** Join the verbs, subjects, or objects of the two sentences with a coordinating conjunction or a correlative conjunction.

**IF**

the objects are  
the same **and**  
verbs are the  
same,

**THEN**

keep the object  
and the verb and  
join the subjects.

I like

Matt



Matt **and** I like **grapefruit**.

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# How to combine sentences

## Compound subjects, verbs, and objects

### On Your Own

Combine each pair of sentences by forming a compound subject, a compound verb, or a compound object.

1. Apples grow on trees. Peaches grow on trees.
2. My cat enjoys music. My cat does not like loud noises.
3. Stan could write the letter. Alternatively, Frank could write the letter.
4. I will finish my paper tonight. I will finish my project, too.
5. Ann went to bed early. Ann could not fall asleep.

Answer

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# How to combine sentences

## Compound sentences

If two sentences are **related** and **equally important**, you can form a **compound sentence**. ▼

A compound sentence is made by joining the two sentences with

- a comma and a coordinating conjunction ▼
- **or** a semicolon ▼
- **or** a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb



The phone rang; **however**, no one answered it.

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# How to combine sentences

## Compound sentences

### On Your Own

Combine each pair of sentences by forming a compound sentence.

1. I can't go to practice today. I'll be there tomorrow.
2. We could go to an early movie. We could eat dinner first and go to a later show.
3. Clouds covered the moon. He could not see the trail.
4. Our house is easy to find. It's right on the corner.
5. Everyone had a test that day. We postponed the meeting for a week.

Answer

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# Review A

Using all the sentence-combining skills you have learned, combine each of the following pairs of sentences.

1. The child gave a shout. The shout was joyful.
2. Carter knew. He should have studied for the exam.
3. Erin began the discussion. Erin is a skilled debater.
4. Steam rose from the pan of water. The water had just begun to boil.
5. The wood was wet from the rain. We couldn't get the fire started.

Answer

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## Review B

Using all the sentence-combining skills you have learned, revise and rewrite the following paragraph without changing its original meaning.

The Japanese comics are called *manga*. *Manga* look like American comics. They have panels and word balloons. *Manga* were also influenced by American animated movies. That was after World War II. Now *manga* appear first in magazines. Later they are collected into books. Many readers think *manga* are like novels. Reading *manga* is like reading novels. Reading *manga* is also like watching movies.

Answer

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