

Combining Sentences

- (with Gemma)

Suppose you were to write about Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, based on the following information...



- **Mrs. Fallon has a dog.**
- **Mrs. Fallon's dog is named Gemma.**
- **Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, has one black ear and one spotted ear.**

- Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, has freckles on her nose.
- Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, steals paper out of the garbage can.
- Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, shreds the paper all over the place.

Of course, you wouldn't express each idea separately in its own sentence like that. Instead, you would combine the ideas into longer, more detailed sentences.



Sentence combining, which can be done in a variety of ways, is one of the most effective writing techniques you can practice.

Here are some ways to combine sentences.....

1. Series

- Use a **series** to combine three or more similar ideas.

Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, has one black ear, one spotted ear, and freckles on her nose.



2. Relative Pronoun

- Use a **relative pronoun** (who, whose, that, which) to introduce the subordinate (less important) ideas.

Mrs. Fallon's dog, whose name is Gemma, has one black ear and one spotted ear.

3. Introductory Phrase or Clause

- Use an **introductory phrase** or clause for the less important ideas.

After stealing paper out of the garbage can, Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, shreds it all over the place.



4. Participial phrase

- Use a **participial phrase** (-ing, -ed) to begin or end a sentence.

Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, steals paper out of the garbage can, shredding it all over the place.

5. Semicolon

- Use a **semicolon** to combine two related sentences.

Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, steals paper out of the garbage can; she shreds it all over the place.

6. Repeat a key word

- Repeat a **key word** or phrase to emphasize the idea.

Mrs. Fallon's dog, Gemma, has a funny-looking nose, a white nose with black freckles on it.



7. Correlative conjunctions

- Use **correlative conjunctions** like “not only, but also; either, or” to compare or contrast two ideas in a sentence.

Not only does Mrs. Fallon’s dog, Gemma, have one black ear and one spotted ear, but she also has freckles on her nose.

8. Appositive

- Use an **appositive** . An appositive is a noun phrase that follows the noun or pronoun it modifies and amplifies or restricts its meaning.

Mrs. Fallon's pet, Gemma, a dog with black and white ears and freckles on her nose, wreaks havoc in the house when she steals paper out of the garbage can.





**The
end.**