

Using Compound Elements

“Birds of a feather flock together.” In writing, that observation becomes advice. Good writers keep similar elements together. When you read over your first draft, you may notice two or more sentences that are quite similar. Perhaps only the subject, the verb, or the complement is different. These types of sentences can easily be combined by using coordinating conjunctions.

Coordinating Conjunctions

and	but	or	nor	for	so	yet
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Original:	Janet raises dogs. Her sister does, too.
Combined:	Janet and her sister raise dogs.
(Here the subjects have been combined.)	
	Original: Does Janet’s brother also raise dogs? Does he train them?
	Combined: Does Janet’s brother also raise or train dogs?
(Here the verbs have been combined.)	
Original:	Janet’s dogs are big. They are very gentle.
Combined:	Janet’s dogs are big yet very gentle.
(Here the complements have been combined.)	
NOTE:	Remember to use commas to separate items in a series.
Example:	Janet raises, trains, and shows Irish wolfhounds.

You can also use a coordinating conjunction to join whole sentences. The conjunction you choose depends on the meaning you want the sentence to have. One little word can make a big difference in meaning.

Original:	Janet likes dogs. Her sister likes cats.
Combined:	Janet likes dogs, and her sister likes cats.
	Janet likes dogs, yet her sister likes cats.
	Janet likes dogs, but her sister likes cats.

	Janet likes dogs, so her sister likes cats.
	Janet likes dogs, for her sister likes cats.

When you read over your draft, look for places where words are repeated. These may be places for compound elements.

DIRECTIONS Join the compound elements in the following sets of sentences. Add commas when necessary.

Change, add, or delete words to make the new sentences read correctly.

Make your changes on the worksheet.

Example	, yet W laughed until we cried. At same time we felt horrified.
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1. Emilio outlined his ideas for the advertising campaign. He got his client's approval.
2. The topics Mr. Gorush suggested for our persuasive essays were capital punishment gun control and mandatory military service. None of them appealed to me.
3. A typical meal at Graziella's is delicious. It is far too large for only one person.
4. Sophie has an athletic scholarship to a college in upper Michigan. Her brother has one, too.
5. I was proud of the pair of men's pajamas I made for Life Skills class. My brother's reaction to them was typical.
6. Last night my cousin Connie suggested that we volunteer at the children's hospital. Her mom, who is a nurse, also suggested it.
7. Phil's dog, Sparky, has never had any training. He barks all night, sleeps on the sofa, and takes food right off your plate.
8. Ms. Groton, who called Andy into her office for another discussion about athletics vs. algebra, was happy that Andy's grades improved. She was sure that he could do even better.
9. A career in marine biology is important to Elaine. She is taking additional science courses this summer.
10. My plan for a dog food commercial is based on three themes: the Seven Wonders of the World the lunar landing and life in the future. My plan may also be used for a birdseed commercial.

Using Compound Elements

Answer Key

Answer Keys:

Answers will vary. These are sample answers.

1. Emilio outlined his ideas for the advertising campaign and got his client's approval.
2. The topics Mr. Gorush suggested for our persuasive essays were capital punishment, gun control, and mandatory military service, but none of them appealed to me.
3. Atypical meal at Graziella's is delicious but far too large for only one person.
4. Sophie and her brother have athletic scholarships to a college in upper Michigan.
5. I was proud of the pair of men's pajamas I made for Life Skills class, but my brother's reaction to them was typical.
6. Last night my cousin Connie and her mom, who is a nurse, suggested that we volunteer at the children's hospital.
7. Phil's dog, Sparky, has never had any training, so he barks all night, sleeps on the sofa, and takes food right off your plate.
8. Ms. Groton, who called Andy into her office for another discussion about athletics vs. algebra, was happy that Andy's grades improved yet she was sure that he could do even better.
9. A career in marine biology is important to Elaine, so she is taking additional science courses this summer.
10. My plan for a dog food or birdseed commercial is based on three themes: the Seven Wonders of the World, the lunar landing, and life in the future.