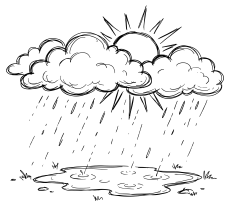
Compound Sentences: How It Works



Grammar · Grades 3–5

A compound sentence joins two complete sentences with a comma and a joining word.

1. Two sentences become one

Each part could stand alone as a sentence.

The rain stopped. The sun came out.

The rain stopped **,** **and** the sun came out.

2. The joining words

and adds an idea

but shows a difference

or gives a choice

so shows a result

The full list is for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

3. The comma goes first

Put a comma at the end of the first sentence, before the joining word.

Gus barked **,** **but** Dot slept.

4. Check both sides

Cover the joining word. Each side must be a complete sentence, with its own subject and verb.

Gus barked | **Dot slept**

a sentence | a sentence

How to join two sentences

1. **Pick the joining word.**
   and, but, or, so
2. **Period becomes a comma.**
   Then write the joining word.
3. **Lowercase the next word.**
   Unless it is a name or the word I.

Which word fits?

and: I fed the cat, **and** I walked the dog.

but: It was cold, **but** we played outside.

or: We can read, **or** we can draw.

so: It began to rain, **so** we went inside.

Watch out

No comma when the second part is not a full sentence:

Pam ran and jumped.

One subject, two verbs. Not a compound sentence.

A comma alone cannot join two sentences:

✗ *The bell rang, we lined up.*

✓ *The bell rang, and we lined up.*