ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Compound sentences

Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

This document was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Overview of the concept

This is how you join two complete ideas in one sentence. Saying you finished your homework and you went outside to play links the two ideas while showing how they relate. Compound sentences keep your writing from sounding like a list of short, choppy statements, and they let you show the connection between two thoughts.



© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Make a compound sentence from: I was tired. I finished the work.

SOLUTION

Check both parts can stand alone: 'I was tired.' and 'I finished the work.' Yes.

Join them with a comma and a coordinating conjunction — a joining word like and, but, so, or — that fits: 'but' for contrast.

So: I was tired, but I finished the work.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Make a compound sentence from: It rained. We stayed inside.

SOLUTION

Check both parts can stand alone: 'It rained.' and 'We stayed inside.' Yes.

Join them with a comma and 'so' for result.

So: It rained, so we stayed inside.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Practice questions

1 Join as compound: She studied hard. She passed.

- A She studied hard, and she passed.
- B She studied hard, but she passed.
- C She studied hard and she passed.
- D She studied hard. She passed.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 Join as compound: The sun set. The stars came out.

- A The sun set, but the stars came out.
- B The sun set, and the stars came out.
- C The sun set and the stars came out.
- D The sun set. The stars came out.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

3 Join as compound: I like tea. I do not like coffee.

- **A** I like tea, so I do not like coffee.
- **B** I like tea but I do not like coffee.
- **C** I like tea, but I do not like coffee.
- **D** I like tea. I do not like coffee.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 Join as compound: He ran fast. He still missed the bus.

- **A** He ran fast, but he still missed the bus.
- **B** He ran fast, so he still missed the bus.
- **C** He ran fast but he still missed the bus.
- **D** He ran fast. He still missed the bus.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

5 Join as compound: You can walk. You can ride.

- **A** You can walk, and you can ride.
- **B** You can walk or you can ride.
- **C** You can walk. You can ride.
- **D** You can walk, or you can ride.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 Join as compound: It was cold. We wore coats.

- **A** It was cold, or we wore coats.
- **B** It was cold, so we wore coats.
- **C** It was cold so we wore coats.
- **D** It was cold. We wore coats.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

7 Join as compound: Sara sings. Tom plays guitar.

- **A** Sara sings, but Tom plays guitar.
- **B** Sara sings and Tom plays guitar.
- **C** Sara sings, and Tom plays guitar.
- **D** Sara sings. Tom plays guitar.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 Join as compound: The book was long. It was worth reading.

- **A** The book was long, but it was worth reading.
- **B** The book was long, so it was worth reading.
- **C** The book was long but it was worth reading.
- **D** The book was long. It was worth reading.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

9 Join as compound: We were hungry. We made lunch.

- **A** We were hungry, but we made lunch.
- **B** We were hungry so we made lunch.
- **C** We were hungry. We made lunch.
- **D** We were hungry, so we made lunch.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 Join as compound: He tried again. He succeeded.

- **A** He tried again, but he succeeded.
- **B** He tried again, and he succeeded.
- **C** He tried again and he succeeded.
- **D** He tried again. He succeeded.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

ANSWER KEY

1. She studied hard, and she passed.
2. The sun set, and the stars came out.
3. I like tea, but I do not like coffee.
4. He ran fast, but he still missed the bus.
5. You can walk, or you can ride.
6. It was cold, so we wore coats.
7. Sara sings, and Tom plays guitar.
8. The book was long, but it was worth reading.
9. We were hungry, so we made lunch.
10. He tried again, and he succeeded.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.