

Compound Sentences with And, But, Or, and So

- An **independent clause** is a group of words with at least one subject and one main verb and forms a complete thought.

Independent clause: Alex likes chocolate.

subject verb object

- A **compound sentence** combines two or more independent clauses with connecting words (**and, but, or, so**).

Everyone was busy, so I went to the movie alone.

independent clause *connecting word* *independent clause*

- A comma separates the clauses, but short two-clause sentence with **and** may not need a comma (especially if the subject of the two clauses is the same).

Compound Sentences with And, But, Or, and So		
and	<i>And</i> adds information and connects similar ideas.	Alex likes chocolate. + He eats it every day. = Alex likes chocolate, and he eats it every day.
but	<i>But</i> shows contrast and connects opposing ideas.	She has blonde hair. + Her sister has brown hair. = She has blonde hair, but her sister has brown hair.
or	<i>Or</i> expresses an alternative or choice.	Do you want soup? + Do you want a salad? = Do you want soup, or do you want a salad?
so	<i>So</i> introduces a result.	Everyone was busy. + I went to the movie alone. = Everyone was busy, so I went to the movie alone.

1 PRACTICE

Combine each pair of sentences using a comma and the word in brackets.

Example: I want some cereal. The box is empty. (but)
I want some cereal, but the box is empty.

1. They arrived early for the movie. They had great seats. (so)

2. I really like ice cream. I am too full for dessert. (but)

3. We could start dinner now. We could wait for everyone else to arrive. (or)

4. My dad raked the front lawn. He put the leaves in a big pile. (and)

5. Mark is done work early. We can leave now. (so)

6. We went for a walk. It started to rain. (and)

7. She doesn't play the piano. She plays the guitar. (but)

8. The power was out. The lights didn't work. (so)

9. Tom started the barbecue. He cooked the chicken. (and)

10. For breakfast, we can make pancakes. We can make eggs. (or)

11. He bought a new jacket. She bought new shoes. (and)

12. His car had a flat tire. He was late for work. (so)

13. Natalie's family went to the zoo. They didn't enjoy it. (but)

14. Janice doesn't like scary movies. She doesn't watch them. (so)

15. There are six people living here. It is very loud. (so)

16. You can take a train. You can take a bus. (or)

17. Our fridge stopped working. The food went bad. (so)

18. He is sick. He is going to the doctor. (so)

2

PRACTICE

Combine the sentences with and, but, or, or so.

1. The shoes were very expensive. I didn't buy them.

2. Do you live in a house? Do you live in an apartment?

3. Mary ran fast. She couldn't catch John.

4. She goes for a walk every day. She takes her dog.