

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**2 PRACTICE** Combine the sentences with and, but, or, or so.

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

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

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

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

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