

Sentence Combining

In order to make your writing more interesting and readable, try to combine short, choppy sentences into one longer, smoother sentence. In this way, you will eliminate repeated words.

EXAMPLE: The garden has beautiful flowers. The garden has tall shade trees. The garden has gurgling fountains.

The garden has beautiful flowers, tall shade trees, and gurgling fountains.

You can also combine two or more simple sentences into a compound sentence by using a conjunction. Common conjunctions are *and*, *but*, and *or*. Usually, a comma is placed before the conjunction to separate the two clauses. If the clauses are short and closely related, however, the comma is often omitted—especially if the conjunction is *and*.

EXAMPLE: I wanted to buy a book. The bookstore was closed.

I wanted to buy a book, but the bookstore was closed.

Combine Them!

Combine each set of short sentences into a longer more effective one.

1. John can wear his checked shirt. John can wear his red shirt.

2. I planted tall, red tulips. I planted pretty, yellow daffodils.

3. Andrew likes water sports best. His brother likes ice hockey best.

4. Danny reached the tallest shelf. He put his new shiny trophy there.

5. Will you use the big, blue cooler? Will you use the small, red cooler?

6. Julia wanted to go to the beach. It was a cool, rainy day.
