

A writer can join two short, choppy sentences into one that is more interesting to read. The result is a compound sentence.

Use the conjunction *and* to join two sentences that show addition or similarity.

Example:

Patrick saw the house. He decided it was haunted.  
Patrick saw the house, *and* he decided it was haunted.

Use the conjunction *but* to join two sentences that show contrast.

Example:

Patrick ran up the steps. He stopped at the door.  
Patrick ran up the steps, *but* he stopped at the door.

Use the conjunction *or* to join two sentences that show choice.

Example:

Should he go inside? Should he explore outside?  
Should he go inside, *or* should he explore outside?



**How to Combine Sentences**

1. Choose two short sentences you want to combine.
2. Select the appropriate conjunction to combine them.
3. Be sure the conjunction makes the meaning of the combined sentence clear.
4. Put a comma before the conjunction.

**DIRECTIONS**

Join each pair of sentences. Use the conjunctions *and*, *but*, or *or*.

1. Patrick studied the wall. He found a hidden button.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Patrick pushed the button. The bookcase moved.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Patrick could wait. He could explore the path.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. He wasn't afraid. He wasn't comfortable, either.

\_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Using Commas

## When should I use commas?

1. **Use a comma before a conjunction (and, but, or, yet, so) to join two independent clauses.**  
example: I went to the game, but my team lost.
2. **Use a comma after an introductory element.**  
example: After a short snooze, Bob got right back to work.
3. **Use commas to separate items in a series of three or more things.**  
example: I bought sugar, pasta, and juice.
4. **Use commas to separate adjectives.**  
example: A thin, handsome man approached me after work.

5. Use commas to offset non-essential information. example: Our school, Glebe Elementary, is located at 1770 N. Glebe Road.

- Read each sentence. Put commas in the correct places in each sentence.**
1. Even though the paint was still wet I couldn't resist touching it.
  2. After the fire burned out I went inside the house.
  3. In English class we read *Old Man and the Sea* *Dracula* and *Beowulf*.
  4. I watched television took the dog for a walk and drove to the store to get milk.
  5. William Shakespeare a famous playwright wrote *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*.
  6. The three pound bass which was the biggest fish I ever caught tasted delicious.
  7. While the turkey was cooking I prepared mashed potatoes.
  8. My best friend John just bought a new lawn mower.
  9. In the basement mice hide between the boxes.
  10. After hiking in the woods for three hours I sat down to have a drink of water.
  11. The big gray dog wouldn't stop barking last night.
  12. Jane I would like you to meet my mother and father.
  13. I need to go to the hardware store to get nails paint and light bulbs.
  14. If you liked *Harry Potter* you'll love *Lord of the Rings*.
  15. I've had enough of your silly wild and inappropriate behavior.