

Lesson 5: Compound Sentences

LEARN

- A **simple sentence** has one subject and one predicate. It expresses one idea.
The National Zoo is in Washington, D.C.
- Sometimes two simple sentences contain related ideas. You can combine these sentences to make a **compound sentence**. Use a connecting word such as *and*, *but*, or *or* to join the sentences.

RELATED SENTENCES

The National Zoo is huge. It has animals from all over the world.

COMPOUND SENTENCE

The National Zoo is huge, **and** it has animals from all over the world.

RELATED SENTENCES

Most zoos do not have pandas. The National Zoo does.

COMPOUND SENTENCE

Most zoos do not have pandas, **but** the National Zoo does.

RELATED SENTENCES

Would you like to go to the zoo? Would you rather see a movie?

COMPOUND SENTENCE

Would you like to go to the zoo, **or** would you rather see a movie?

The connecting words *and*, *but*, and *or* are called **coordinating conjunctions**. A comma (,) always goes before the conjunction in a compound sentence.



PRACTICE

A Read each sentence. Write *simple* if the sentence is made up of only one idea. Write *compound* if the sentence is made up of two related ideas.

1. Pandas feed mostly on bamboo plants. simple
2. A panda's head is white, but its eyes and ears are black. compound
3. Are pandas in the raccoon family, or are they true bears? compound

PRACTICE

4. Panda
5. Grizz
6. Grizz
7. A pol
8. Polar
9. Black
10. Keep

B

1. Adul
Pand

Griz

4. Pola
They
5. A br
Griz
A br

PRACTICE A *continued*

4. Pandas are endangered, but people are working to protect them. compound
5. Grizzly bears walk slowly, but they can run fast. compound
6. Grizzlies eat many kinds of plants, and they eat fish, too. compound
7. A polar bear's coat is waterproof. simple
8. Polar bears are excellent swimmers. simple
9. Black bears are commonly found in the eastern United States. simple
10. Keep away from black bears, or you might get hurt. compound

B *Read each incomplete compound sentence. Underline the sentence below that best relates to it. Then combine the related sentences to form a compound sentence. Write the compound sentence on the line.*

1. Adult pandas weigh several hundred pounds, but _____.
Pandas are in the bear family. Newborns weigh just one pound.
Adult pandas weigh several hundred pounds, but newborns weigh just one pound.

2. Brown bears eat meat, or _____.
The tips of their hairs are white. They eat plants, insects, and fish.
Brown bears eat meat, or they eat plants, insects, and fish.

3. Grizzly cubs can climb trees, but _____.
Adult grizzlies cannot. They like honey.

Grizzly cubs can climb trees, but adult grizzlies cannot

C One zoo posted this list of rules for visitors. The compound sentences on the list have six mistakes. Look for the mistakes and correct them. Use the proofreading marks in the box.

Remember



A **simple sentence** has one subject and one predicate. It expresses one idea.

A **compound sentence** is formed by joining two simple sentences with a coordinating conjunction such as *and*, *but*, or *or*.

ZOO RULES

Enjoy your visit! Our zoo is a wonderful place to explore and these rules will keep you safe and happy.

- Please don't feed the animals. Our animals have special diets and human food can make them sick.
- Pets are not allowed at the zoo but guide dogs are permitted.
- Railings and fences protect you and they also keep our animals safe. Never extend fingers and arms through fences.
- Visitors may carry personal digital devices but they must use headphones. Noise can disturb both animals and people.
- Don't litter. Place all your trash in the bins or our zoo won't be a pleasant place to visit.

Proofreading Marks

- ^ Add
- Period
- ~ Take out
- ≡ Capital letter
- / Small letter



Did you correct six mistakes in the compound sentences?



WRITE



D Each pair of sentences below contains related ideas. Combine the sentences to form a compound sentence. Use the coordinating conjunction in parentheses to join them. Remember to put a comma before the joining word. The first one is done for you.

1. Zookeepers know more about how an animal lives. They build better zoos. (and)
Zookeepers know more about how an animal lives, and they build better zoos.

2. Animals move around freely. People can still get a good view of them. (but)
Animals move around freely, but people can still get a good view of them.

3. Conditions must be just right in a zoo. Animals get sick. (or)
Conditions must be just right in a zoo, or animals get sick.

4. Polar bears need icy cold water. Lions need warm temperatures. (but)
Polar bears need icy cold water, but lions need warm temperatures.

5. Zoo animals need to stay busy. They will become bored and unhappy. (or)
Zoo animals need to stay busy, or they will become bored and unhappy.

6. Apes search for their own food in today's zoos. Some zoo elephants even paint pictures. (and)
Apes search for their own food in today's zoos, and some zoo elephants even paint pictures.

7. The field feels as if it is the giraffes' natural home. There is lots of room to roam. (and)
The field feels as if it is the giraffes' natural home, and there is lots of room to roam.

8. Modern zoos are difficult to build and run. They're worth it. (but)
Modern zoos are difficult to build and run, but they're worth it.