

Combining Sentences by Using *And*, *But*, or *Or*

You can link ideas of nearly equal weight to combine sentences. With the words *and*, *but*, and *or*, you can make a compound subject, a compound verb, or a compound sentence.

When two sentences have the same verb but have different subjects, you can join the subjects to make one sentence. When you join the subjects, you form a **compound subject**.

SAME VERB The cement truck **drove** into the parking lot. The dump truck **drove** in, too.

COMPOUND SUBJECT **The cement truck and the dump truck** drove into the parking lot. [The subjects *cement truck* and *dump truck* are joined by *and* to make a compound subject.]

When two sentences have the same subject but have different verbs, you can make one sentence with a **compound verb**.

SAME SUBJECT **The cement truck** drove into the parking lot. **The cement truck** did not stay long.

COMPOUND VERB The cement truck **drove** into the parking lot **but did not stay** long. [The verbs *drove* and *did stay* are joined by *but* to make a compound verb.]

EXERCISE A Use proofreading marks to combine each of the following sentences. You may need to change the form of a verb to agree with a compound subject.

Examples 1. French I ^{and Spanish I were} ~~was~~ offered last year. Spanish I ~~was offered, too.~~ ^y [Both sentences have the same verb, *was offered*. *And* is used to combine the two different subjects. The verb *was* is changed to *were* to agree with the compound subject.]

2. Dad could fix the problem. ^{but y} ~~He~~ doesn't have any metric tools. [Both sentences have the same subject, *Dad*. *But* is used to combine the two different verbs.]

1. Shall we save these? Shall we throw them out? [Do both sentences have the same subject? Which words should be used to join the two sentences?]
2. Baseball cards can be quite valuable now. Basketball cards can be, too. [Do both sentences have the same verb? Which word should be used to join the two sentences?]
3. These lightbulbs burn brightly. They emit little heat.
4. Taylor's Music may have that CD. Music Incorporated may have it, too.
5. Lake Maracaibo is South America's largest lake. It serves as a major port with ocean access.
6. Everybody has signed up for the field trip. Tim has not signed up yet.
7. Radar is scanning the area now. It is not registering anything.
8. The foundation of the new house will be completed by then. The frame will be completed, too.

9. That little wooden puzzle looks easy. It isn't.
10. Erosion may have caused that formation. Volcanic activity may have done so, too.

Often, two sentences will have different subjects and different verbs. When two such sentences are closely related, you can combine them to make one sentence called a *compound sentence*.

ORIGINAL A worker waved. The cement truck backed into the parking lot.

COMBINED A worker waved, **and** the cement truck backed into the parking lot.

EXERCISE B Use the words *and*, *but*, or *or* to combine each of the following pairs of sentences. Remember that you may need to change capitalization and to delete or add words. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Example 1. The elephant herd set off for the river. The baby elephant had other ideas. [*But* can

be used to make a compound sentence.] The elephant herd set off for the river, but

the baby elephant had other ideas.

11. Fireflies flitted in the darkness. We watched them for a long time. [Which word would be best to join the two sentences?] _____
12. Strangely enough, the Cherokee rose originated in China. These flowers now flourish in the southern states. _____
13. Our club is cleaning the vacant lot next to the school. We are planting trees there as well. _____
14. Did you call Mary this morning? Should I do it? _____
15. Jim wanted to see the play at the Alley Theater. He could not catch the bus on time. _____