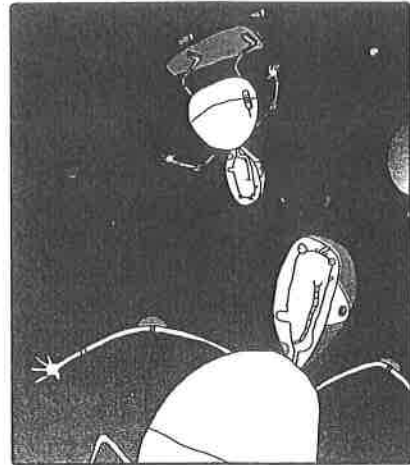


Sentence Combining with a Series of Words or Phrases

The words *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, and *yet* (called *coordinating conjunctions*) are used to connect words, phrases, and clauses in writing. Don't overuse them. You don't want your writing to ramble on and on.

The examples below show you how to combine shorter sentences by using a series of words or phrases. In each case, you will need to use a coordinating conjunction in your combined sentence. (Turn to page 94 in *Write Source 2000* for more examples.)



EXAMPLES

Shorter Sentences:

My skateboard is new.

My skateboard is fast.

It's great for flips.

Combined Sentence Using a Series of Words:

My skateboard is new, fast, and great for flips.

Shorter Sentences:

Sam drinks milk at breakfast.

He drinks milk at lunch.

He drinks milk at dinner.

Combined Sentence Using a Series of Phrases:

Sam drinks milk at breakfast, at lunch, and at dinner.

Directions

Combine the following sets of short sentences into longer ones using the method asked for in parentheses. The first one has been done for you.

1. The new policy seems unfair. The new policy seems impractical. The new policy seems confusing. (Use a series of words.)

The new policy seems unfair, impractical, and confusing.

2. The kids built a clubhouse. They created club rules. They made up a secret handshake. (Use a series of phrases.)

3. To earn money for her soccer club, Sarah sells magazines. She sells candy. She sells pizzas. (Use a series of words.)

4. While dreaming, my dog Molly taps her front paws. While dreaming, she grins broadly. She also wags her tail. (Use a series of phrases.)

5. Earning money is important to Landa. Participating in gymnastics is important to her. Painting people's portraits is also important to her. (Use a series of phrases.)

6. Andy loves sports and plays hockey. He plays baseball. He plays football. (Use a series of words.)



Next Step Pretend to be a mouse and describe some of the places a mouse can go (*in, out, over, under, etc.*). To do this, use eight prepositional phrases in one rambling sentence that begins "The mouse ran . . .". (See the list of prepositions in your handbook.) Don't forget to use commas to separate your prepositional phrases.

Sentence Combining with a Series of Words or Phrases

Being able to combine shorter sentences into longer, more mature sentences is a great writing skill to learn. Longer sentences can help you show relationships that are hard to express in shorter sentences. To effectively combine short sentences, you need to recognize what the shorter sentences have in common—what series of words, phrases, or ideas can be pulled together into one longer sentence. Study the examples below. (Also turn to page 94 in *Write Source 2000* for more examples.)



EXAMPLES

Shorter Sentences:

Aaron skies on snow.

He skies on water.

He skies on ice.

Combined Sentence Using a Series of Words:

Aaron skies on snow, water, and ice.

Shorter Sentences:

Aaron sprained his ankle.

He bruised his hip.

He wrenched his back.

Combined Sentence Using a Series of Phrases:

Aaron sprained his ankle, bruised his hip, and wrenched his back.

Directions

Combine the following sets of short sentences into longer ones using the method asked for in parentheses. The first one has been done for you.

1. John tore down the hill. He cut in front of Aaron. He caused him to fall.
(Use a series of phrases.)

John tore down the hill, cut in front of Aaron, and caused him to fall.

2. As Aaron tried to get out of John's way, he tumbled. Then he slid and spun. (Use a series of words.)

3. John was skiing too fast. He was moving carelessly from side to side. He was taking unnecessary chances. (Use a series of phrases.)

4. As John skied past Aaron, he whistled. He shouted and laughed. (Use a series of words.)

5. The ski patrol headed up the hill with their toboggan. They brought a back brace. They also brought an inflatable leg cast. (Use a series of phrases.)

6. Aaron now sits by himself. He watches hockey on television and dreams of getting back on the slopes. (Use a series of phrases.)



Next Step Write a paragraph describing an accident (or near accident) you have had. Then rewrite the paragraph to see how many sentences you can combine using a series of words or phrases as you did above. Compare your two paragraphs. Which one reads better?