

Sentence Combining with Compound Subjects and Verbs

By using compound subjects and compound verbs, you can combine ideas from shorter sentences into one sentence. A compound subject includes two or more subjects, and a compound verb includes two or more verbs. (Turn to page 95 in *Write Source 2000* for more information.)



EXAMPLES

Two Shorter Sentences:

A moose ran through our campsite. A squirrel ran through our campsite.

Combined Sentence with Compound Subject:

A moose and a squirrel ran through our campsite.

Two Shorter Sentences:

The squirrel opened an acorn. It ate the acorn.

Combined Sentence with Compound Verb:

The squirrel opened and ate an acorn.

Directions

Combine the following shorter sentences in each example into one sentence having a compound subject or a compound verb.

1. Baby moose are called calves. Baby elk and cattle are called calves.

2. A full-grown moose stands six feet tall. It weighs around 1,000 pounds.

3. A bull moose's antlers grow all summer. They can weigh 75 pounds.

4. Moose eat tree bark and twigs. Beavers eat twigs and bark.

5. Animals with four stomachs are called ruminants. Goats, deer, and cattle have four stomachs. Moose have four stomachs.

6. When the snow is deep, a moose will bite off a mouthful of bark. It will chew the bark. Then it will swallow it.

7. Moose flies are pests that bug moose during the summer. During the same time, blackflies and deerflies bother moose.

8. A moose can swim fast. A moose can run about 30 miles an hour.

9. Streams are good places to see moose. You can also see them in ponds and meadows.

10. An angry moose will charge you if it feels threatened. It could kick you. It could bite.



Next Step Look at a young child's storybook or picture book. See how many of its short sentences you can combine by creating compound subjects or verbs.

Sentence Combining with Compound Subjects and Verbs

Sentences are not limited to having a single subject and predicate (or verb). A sentence can have two or more subjects called a **compound subject**. A sentence can also have a **compound verb**. Some sentences may have both a compound subject and a compound verb. Sometimes, instead of writing two short sentences, you may want to combine the subjects or verbs (or both) into a single sentence providing the same information.

Note: Notice how using a compound verb to combine the two sentences below eliminates repetition and lets you use one sentence instead of two.



EXAMPLE

Shorter Sentences:

I got up at 6:00 in the morning.

I got dressed in my warmest clothes.

Combined Sentence Using a Compound Verb:

I got up at 6:00 in the morning and dressed in my warmest clothes.

Directions

Combine each of the following pairs of sentences into a single sentence that uses compound subjects or verbs. Turn to pages 88 and 95 and to 435.2, 435.6, and 435.7 in *Write Source 2000* for more information and additional examples. Some sentences may require both a compound subject and compound verb. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. My dad was taking me ice fishing. My uncle was coming, too.

My dad and my uncle were taking me ice fishing.

2. My dad made me a huge pancake-and-sausage breakfast. He asked if I was full.
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3. On the way to the lake, the two men told funny fishing stories. They poked fun at each other's fish tales.

4. I believed only about half the stories. I laughed at all of them anyway.

5. The heat in the car made me drowsy. The car's heat finally put me to sleep.

6. At the lake, the cold wind cut right through my warm clothes. It caused my teeth to start chattering.

7. My dad gathered kindling. My uncle helped and soon started a hot blazing fire.

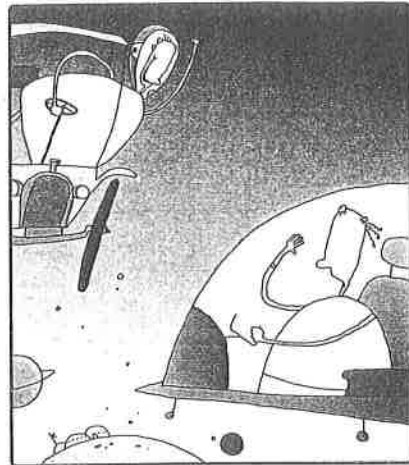
8. I liked fishing that day. I enjoyed the warm fire even more.



Next Step Write a paragraph describing an experience you have had in nature. Then rewrite the paragraph, combining sentences using compound subjects and verbs. Compare your two paragraphs and discuss the results with a classmate. Do each of you see an improvement in your rewritten versions?

Sentence Combining with Compound Subjects and Verbs

Sentence combining is especially helpful when your writing sounds a little choppy. For example, you can combine sentences by moving a subject, a verb, or a complete idea from one sentence to another sentence. (Turn to pages 95 and 96 in *Write Source 2000* for examples.)



Directions

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

1. Very few Americans owned a car 100 years ago. The Model T Ford changed all that. (Use a compound sentence.)

Very few Americans owned a car 100 years ago, but the Model T Ford changed all that.

2. The Model T Ford was developed by Henry Ford. The Model T Ford was nicknamed "Tin Lizzie." (Use a compound verb.)

3. A crude, boxlike body was used on this odd-looking car. Bicycle wheels were used on this odd-looking car. (Use a compound subject.)

4. The Tin Lizzie wasn't glamorous. The Tin Lizzie was cheap. (Use a compound sentence.)

5. Ford produced about 10,000 Model T Fords between 1907 and 1908. He sold them for \$850 each. (Use a **compound verb**.)

6. Engineers figured out how to make lighter cars. Efficiency experts figured out how to make cars in less time. (Use a **compound sentence**.)

7. Assembly lines cut costs. They gave many people jobs. (Use a **compound verb**.)

8. The Model T was a Ford design. The Model A was a Ford design, too. (Use a **compound subject**.)

9. The car market forced the Ford Corporation to expand. The expansion increased profits. (Use a **compound sentence**.)

10. Ford planned to share company profits with his employees. He wanted to set a minimum wage. (Use a **compound verb**.)



Next Step Write freely for 5 minutes about a memorable car-related experience. Afterward, underline two sets of sentences that could be combined to make them more smooth reading. Combine these sentences on the back of your paper.