

Grammar 5: Commas and Compound Sentences

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

Review Concept: The Simple Sentence

A **simple sentence** is a sentence made up of one independent clause by itself.

Below are 2 simple sentences; each is made of one independent clause.

Ex. <sup>S</sup> Marta is going <sup>V</sup> to the dance with me. However, <sup>S</sup> she <sup>V</sup> refuses to hold my hand.

Note: An **independent clause** is a group of words that (1) has both a subject and a verb and that (2) can stand alone as a sentence.

New Concept: The Compound Sentence

A **compound sentence** is made of two or more independent clauses joined together.

Ex. <sup>S</sup> Marta is going <sup>V</sup> to the dance with me, but <sup>S</sup> she <sup>V</sup> refuses to hold my hand.

Punctuation Rule – Comma in Compound Sentence

Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (i.e., one of the **FANBOYS**) to join 2 independent clauses.

Example: I believe in ghosts, **but** my brother believes in unicorns.

independent clause + , & coordinating conjunction + independent clause

What are the 7 coordinating conjunctions? (Memorize these!)

For      And      Nor      But      Or      Yet      So

NOTE: Do not mistake a simple sentence containing a **compound verb** for a compound sentence.

Why is no comma needed in the sentence below?

<sup>S</sup> Tim did <sup>V</sup> the dishes and then <sup>V</sup> washed his pet elephant.

**Exercise 1: Write the missing comma in its proper place in each sentence below.**

- I tried to complete the reading homework, but my means friends would not let me!
- Our dog chased our cat and then our cat shredded our dog.
- Medieval knights were trained to fight on horseback but they could also fight hand-to-hand.
- My brother kept sticking out his tongue and then he started being really obnoxious.
- Mr. Robel's favorite music is punk-country so he's the coolest teacher in the world.
- Robe-Dawg could have kept living the thug-life or he could have become a pro motocross racer.

### Exercise 2: Simple or Compound?

In each sentence below, identify every independent clause by labeling the subject "S" and the verb "V." Then label the entire sentence as either "Simple" or "Compound" in the blank.

Example:

Compound 0. The Universe exploded yesterday, but I did not hear the sound.

Two independent clauses joined by ; but

Simple 1. Robe-Dawg's cat scratched my face yesterday!

Compound 2. Today my dog is coming to school with me, and we will teach Robe-Dawg's cat a thing or two!

Simple 3. English teachers talk a lot and brag about their mad grammar skills all the time.

Compound 4. I completed all the reading homework last night, but I can't remember any of it.

Simple 5. Lizards and skunks are my best friends.

### Exercise 3: Commas

In each sentence below, identify every independent clause by labeling the subject "S" and the verb "V." Then decide whether each sentence needs a comma added to it.

If a sentence needs a comma, write the comma in where it belongs. Otherwise, leave it as is.

Example:

0. I have really massive muscles and a very small intellect.

No comma needed  
Only one independent clause.

1. My brother studies English every day, and my sister plays field hockey constantly. Compound

2. Four aggressive seniors stole your sweatshirt, but I stole it back. Compound

3. Mary's dolphin ridiculed me and ate all my Doritos! Simple

4. I wrote a research paper about walrus, so I know a lot about them. Compound

5. I want your sister's knee-high boots for they perfectly match my yellow body-suit. Compound