

Writing Compound Sentences

Compound sentences are formed by connecting two complete sentences (independent clauses) with a comma and a coordinating conjunction. The sentences may also be combined with a semi-colon.

Examples:

Independent clauses: Maria made the birthday cake.
Eli bought the candles.

Compound sentence 1: Maria made the birthday cake, and Eli bought the candles.

Compound sentence 2: Maria made the birthday cake; Eli bought the candles.

Combine each pair of independent clauses into a compound sentence. Use the coordinating conjunction in parentheses in the first four pairs. Use a semi-colon in the last three pairs.

1. The rain pounded against the windows.
The wind wailed through the trees. (and)

2. We couldn't go outside to play.
We were happy the drought had ended. (but)

3. Would you like to play chess to pass the time?
Would you rather play Monopoly? (or)

4. I knew it would rain all afternoon.
I decided to bake cookies. (so)

5. In some places, it rains too much in the summer.
In others, it doesn't rain enough. (;)

6. The children splashed in the muddy puddles.
They didn't care if their clothes got messy. (;)

7. We put our umbrellas on the porch.
They dried quickly. (;)

Now write two compound sentences of your own. In the first, include a comma and a coordinating conjunction. In the second, include a semicolon.

8. _____

9. _____

ANSWER KEY

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1. The rain pounded against the windows.
The wind wailed through the trees. (and)

The rain pounded against the windows, and the wind wailed through the trees.

2. We couldn't go outside to play.
We were happy the drought had ended. (but)

We couldn't go outside to play, but we were happy the drought had ended.

3. Would you like to play chess to pass the time?
Would you rather play Monopoly? (or)

Would you like to play chess to pass the time, or would you rather play Monopoly?

ANSWER KEY

4. I knew it would rain all afternoon.
I decided to bake cookies. (so)

I knew it would rain all afternoon, so I decided to bake cookies.

5. In some places, it rains too much in the summer.
In others, it doesn't rain enough. (;)

In some places, it rains too much in the summer; in others, it doesn't rain enough.

6. The children splashed in the muddy puddles.
They didn't care if their clothes got messy. (;)

The children splashed in the muddy puddles; they didn't care if their clothes got messy.

7. We put our umbrellas on the porch.
They dried quickly. (;)

We put our umbrellas on the porch; they quickly dried.

Now write two compound sentences of your own. In the first, include a comma and a coordinating conjunction. In the second, include a semicolon.

8. **Answers will vary.**

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