



Grammar Mini Lesson: Simple and Compound sentences

Simple sentence

- A very basic sentence that contains a subject and a predicate
- Expresses one complete thought
- Does not start with a prepositional phrase

Examples:

1. Leslie will sing in the talent show.
2. Joe camped with his Boy Scout troop.
3. Aaron draws very well.

Non-examples:

1. Leslie in talent show. *(no predicate)*
2. Camping with Boy Scouts is. *(not a complete thought)*
3. Because Aaron draws very well. *(begins with a preposition)*

Simple sentence

- A simple sentence may contain a compound subject, a compound predicate, or both.

Examples:

- Leslie and Mark will sing in the talent show.
- Leslie will sing and dance in the talent show.
- Leslie and Mark will sing and dance in the talent show.

Compound sentence

- A sentence that contains two or more complete thoughts (independent clauses).
- The independent clauses are usually joined by a comma and a conjunction (think FANBOYS).
- Sometimes a semicolon (;) is used to join compound sentences.

Examples:

- Leslie will sing in the talent show, and we expect her to win first place.
- Leslie is scheduled to sing in the talent show, but she has strep throat.
- Leslie is not singing in the talent show; I will take her place.

Practice: Simple or Compound?

1. Father was a carpenter by trade, and he built us a sturdy home.
2. I crossed my arms over my chest and pouted.
3. I couldn't throw it into High Street; it might spook one of the horses.
4. I had just saved her precious quilt from disaster, but would she appreciate it?
5. The water in the washbasin was cloudy, and the facecloth smelled like old cheese.
6. The size of the room did not match the size of our family.
7. My father built our home and business after the War for Independence ended in 1783.
8. The room where we served customers filled most of the first floor and had four large windows.



Grammar Mini Lesson: sentence combining

Sentence Combining Idea #1:

Combine sentences with similar ideas by combining subjects or predicates to make a compound subject or compound predicate.

Examples:

◦ Leslie is an excellent singer. Mark is also an excellent singer.

◦ Leslie and Mark are excellent singers.

◦ Joe camped with his Boy Scout troop. He also hiked with his troop.

◦ Joe camped and hiked with his Boy Scout troop.

Sentence Combining Idea #2:

If there are more than two items in a series, connect them with a comma after each item (except the last one). Include a conjunction before the last item.

Examples:

◦ Leslie is an excellent singer. Mark is an excellent singer. Peter is also an excellent singer.

◦ Leslie, Mark, and Peter are excellent singers.

◦ Joe camped with his Boy Scout troop. He hiked with his troop. He also swam with his troop.

◦ Joe camped, hiked, and swam with his Boy Scout troop.

Sentence Combining Idea #3:

Combine two simple sentences that are related by making one compound sentence. Add a comma + conjunction between them.

Examples:

- Leslie will sing in the talent show. We expect her to win first place.
- *Leslie will sing in the talent show, and we expect her to win first place.*
- Joe camped with his Boy Scout troop. They had to come home early.
- *Joe camped with his Boy Scout troop, but they had to come home early.*
- Aaron draws very well. He was selected to enter the poster contest.
- *Aaron draws very well, so he was selected to enter the poster contest.*

Let's Practice: Combine these sentences in the best way possible.

- Wendy ran to catch the train. She got there too late.
 - *Use a comma + conjunction:*
 - *Wendy ran to catch the train, but she got there too late.*
- Skyscrapers in the city were damaged in the hurricane. Bridges in the city were damaged in the hurricane.
 - *Create a compound subject:*
 - *Skyscrapers and bridges in the city were damaged in the hurricane.*
- The diner has great steaks. It has cheap hamburgers. It has crisp French fries.
 - *Combine similar items in a series with comma + conjunction:*
 - *The diner has great steaks, cheap hamburgers, and crisp French fries.*
- Peter plays tennis. He sings in the choir.
 - *Use a compound sentence:*
 - *Peter plays tennis, and he sings in the choir.*