

## SENTENCE COMBINING

Combining sentences allows writers to avoid unnecessary repetition, provide emphasis, and improve sentence variety. Here are a few of the many ways to combine sentences.

1. Combine by using a compound sentence or complex sentence. (Also see #3 below.)

John is an excellent cook. I like to eat at his house.

John is an excellent cook, so I like to eat at his house. (compound sentence)

I like to eat at John's house, for he is an excellent cook. (compound sentence)

Since John is an excellent cook, I like to eat at his house. (complex sentence)

I like to eat at John's house since he is an excellent cook. (complex sentence)

(Note: The two sentences above contain adverb clauses.)

2. Combine by making a list.

Ann is a good baseball player. She is a good swimmer. She is a good golfer.

Ann is a good baseball player, swimmer, and golfer.

3. Combine by using an appositive or relative clause (adjective clause).

Jason is an Eagle Scout. He is also an honor student.

Jason, an Eagle scout, is also an honor student. (appositive)

Jason, who is an Eagle Scout, is also an honor student. (relative clause)

(Note: A sentence with a relative clause is also a complex sentence.)

4. Combine by using a past or present participle phrase or compound predicate.

Kate was finished with the report. She left for the game.

Finished with the report, Kate left for the game. (past participle phrase)

Kate, finished with the report, left for the game. (past participle phrase)

Having finished the report, Kate left for the game. (present participle phrase)

Kate, having finished the report, left for the game. (present participle phrase)

Kate finished the report and left for the game. (compound predicate)

Directions: Combine the following sentences into one coherent sentence. For this exercise, do not write any compound sentences. The first one is done for you. Three options are shown though you need to do only one for each of your revisions.

1. My cousin enjoys classical music. She enjoys jazz. She is a music major.

My cousin, who enjoys classical music and jazz, is a music major.

A music major, my cousin enjoys classical music and jazz.

My cousin, a music major, enjoys classical music and jazz.

2. Helen was walking to church downtown. She saw a car accident. She ran to the nearest pay phone to call for help.
3. Martin was sick. He was unable to attend the party. The party was for his sister. It was her birthday.
4. I waited for the bus. I read a magazine while I waited. I also read a newspaper.
5. Sinclair is one of the largest community colleges in the United States. It is considered one of the best in the United States. It has many innovative programs.
6. Mohammad has been in America for two years. He speaks English. He speaks English well. He is originally from Jordan.
7. My wife is a math teacher. She has been a math teacher for twenty years. Sometimes she wishes she was a lawyer. She likes to argue.
8. My friend is in the hospital. He was painting his house. He fell off a ladder.
9. The student was removed from the room. He was yelling at the teacher. He was yelling at the students. The student was removed by two security guards.
10. The president of the college resigned. She moved to Canada. She hoped to write and relax for awhile.