

Compound Sentences - Handout

1. What is a compound sentence?

- A compound sentence joins two complete ideas.
- Each part can stand alone as a sentence.
- We often join ideas with and, but, or or so.

2. Useful joining words

Joining word	Meaning	Example
and	adds information	I read the leaflet and I answered the questions.
but	shows a difference	I was tired, but I finished my homework.
or	shows a choice	You can phone us or you can visit reception.
so	shows a result	She missed the bus, so she walked to college.

3. Easy steps

- Read both short sentences.
- Ask: Are they adding, contrasting, choosing, or showing a result?
- Choose and, but, or or so.
- Read the new sentence aloud. Does it make sense?

4. Exam writing tip

- Use compound sentences in emails, articles, reviews and reports to add more detail and make your writing smoother.