There are three [types of sentences](https://www.thoughtco.com/sentence-type-basics-for-english-learners-1211715) in English: Simple, compound, and complex sentences. This worksheet focuses on writing compound sentences.

[Compound sentences](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-compound-sentence-1689895) are made up of two [simple sentences](https://www.thoughtco.com/simple-sentence-english-grammar-1692099) connected by a [coordinating conjunction](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-conjunction-grammar-1689911). A great way to remember conjunctions is COMMA FANBOYS:

F - For - reasons  
A - And - addition / next action  
N - Nor – both sentences are negative  
B - But - contrasting and unexpected results  
O - Or - choices and conditions  
Y - Yet - contrasting and unexpected results  
S - So - actions taken

AND: addition or next action

addition *Tom enjoys playing tennis, and he likes cooking.*  
next action *We drove home, and we went to bed.*

BUT ≤ YET: pros and cons (opposites) or unexpected results

Pros and cons of a situation

*We wanted to visit our friends, but we didn't have enough money to get a flight.*  
Unexpected results

*Janet did very well on her job interview, yet she didn't get the position.*

SO: effect

FOR: cause

Effect *Mary needed some new clothing, so she went shopping.*

Cause (reason) 🡪 effect (result)

Cause *They stayed home for the holiday, for they had to work.*

Effect (result) 🡨 cause (reason)

“For” leads an independent clause while “because” leads a dependent clause.

OR: choice between two or condition

Choice between two

*We thought we might go to see a film, or we might have dinner out.  
Angela said she might buy him a watch, or she might give him a gift certificate.*

Conditions

You should study a lot for the test, or you won't pass. = **If** you do **not** study a lot for the test, you won't pass.

NOR: both sentences are negative (not + or)

We won't be able to visit our friends, nor **will they be** able to visit us this summer.

Sharon isn't going to the conference, nor **is she going** to present there.

NOTE: Notice how when using “nor” the [sentence structure](https://www.thoughtco.com/sentence-structure-chart-1209906) is inverted. In other words, after “nor,” you need to place the helping verb before the subject. Supported by an inverted word order, NOR is a very effective and emphatic conjunction.

Student learning outcomes:

1. I know how to combine two simple sentences using FANBOYS.
2. I know how to write a compound sentence.

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| Choose one conjunction from FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) that completes a compound sentence that consists of two simple sentences. |

1) Peter drove to visit his friend, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they went out for dinner.

2) Mary thinks she should go to school, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ she wants to get qualifications for a new profession.

3) Alan invested a lot of money in the business, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the business went bankrupt.

4) Doug didn't understand the homework assignment, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he asked the teacher for help.

5) The students didn't prepare for the test, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they didn't realize how important the test was.

6) Jack flew to London to visit his Uncle, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he also wanted to visit the National Museum.

7) Henry studied very hard for the test, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he passed with high marks.

8) We needed some food for the week, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we went to the supermarket.

9) Janet doesn't like sushi, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does she like any kind of fish.

10) He said he didn't mind if I stayed home, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it soon became clear he wasn't being honest.

A **comma splice** (a cardinal crime in college writing) occurs when two independent clauses are combined with a comma but without one of FANBOYS.

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| Feeling Fearless?  Why don’t you replace “comma FANBOYS” with a **semicolon**?  Semicolons can combine two independent clauses as long as they are interrelated.  The moon is full**;** the stars are out. 🡨 The moon is full**, and** the stars are out.  Call me tomorrow**;** I will give you my answer then. 🡨 Call me tomorrow**, and** I will give you my answer then.  We have not yet won; however, we shall keep trying. 🡨 Even though we have not yet won, we shall keep trying.  However = nevertheless = nonetheless (they are synonymous, meaning they are interchangeable) |