

PRACTICE IN SENTENCE COMBINING

This exercise will let you practice some common ways of combining two simple sentences into a larger one. To link each pair, choose one of the words provided. Write out the new sentences, with appropriate punctuation.

A. To form a compound sentence in which two clauses have equal value, follow this formula: **clause 1 + , + coordinate conjunction + clause 2 = compound sentence**. The **coordinate** conjunctions are *and, but, or, for, nor, so, and yet*.

- a. Only three weeks remained in the fall semester.
- b. Mallory did not seem to care.

- a. Mallory refused to come to class.
- b. He refused to do his homework.

- a. Mallory did not take the unit test.
- b. He did not turn in his research paper.

- a. Professor Johns had a serious discussion with Mallory.
- b. Mallory decided to mend his ways.

- a. Just in the nick of time, Mallory did turn in his work.
- b. He did not make a passing grade in the class.

- a. Mallory should register for summer school.
- b. He will not be able to graduate next May.

B. To form a complex sentence in which one clause contains the sentence's main idea and the other clause "leans" on the first in order to have meaning, follow this formula: **clause 1 + subordinate conjunction (for other connector) + clause 2 = complex sentence**; or **subordinate conjunction (or other connector) + , + clause 2 = complex sentence**.

Combine each pair of sentences two ways. In the first, make clause "a" the main clause and clause "b" the "learner" comes first, follow it with a comma. If it follows the main clause, do not use a comma. Some possible choices for a subordinate conjunction include: *since, although, while, unless, when, because, after, if*.

- a. Only three weeks remained in the fall semester.
- b. Mallory did not seem to care.

- a. Mallory refused to come to class.
- b. He refused to do his homework.

- a. Mallory did not take the test.
- b. He did not turn in his research paper.
- a. The teacher has a serious discussion with Mallory.
- b. Mallory decided to mend his ways.
- a. Mallory did turn in his work.
- b. He did not make a passing grade in the class.
- a. Mallory should register for summer school.
- b. He will not be able to graduate next May.

C. Two main (independent) clauses may be joined by a conjunctive adverb (adverbial connective) such as *however, therefore, moreover, nevertheless, beside, in fact, indeed*. Such a connective, however, cannot serve the purpose of a coordinate conjunction (see part A). Therefore, a semi-colon rather than a comma is needed after the first main clause and before the conjunctive adverb. The formula for building a sentence using a conjunctive adverb is as follows: **clause 1 + ; + conjunctive adverb + , + clause 2 = compound sentence**.

Combine the following pairs of sentences two ways using the above formula. In one sentence use clause “a” first; in the other sentence use clause “b” first.

- a. Only three weeks remained in the fall semester.
- b. Mallory did not seem to care.
- a. Mallory refused to come to class.
- b. He refused to do his homework.
- a. Mallory did not take the test.
- b. He did not turn in his research paper.
- a. The teacher has a serious discussion with Mallory.
- b. Mallory decided to mend his ways.
- a. Just in the nick of time, Mallory did turn in his work.
- b. He did not make a passing grade in the class.
- a. Mallory should register for summer school.
- b. He will not be able to graduate next May.

D. Other sentence revisions can be formed by expanding the original sentence so that its Elements such as subject, verb, object, complement, and modifiers, become compound while the clause itself remains simple. Try your hand at some transforms of the working “kernel” clauses you have used.

