



## Writing compound sentences

Frequent use of short sentences can be strange to read. Writing can be made more interesting by using two sorts of longer sentences: compound **sentences** and **complex** sentences. This factsheet looks at the simplest of these - the **compound sentence**.

### Making a compound sentence

When there are two or more short, independent, simple sentences that are of **equal weight** you can join them together using special words called **conjunctions**.

**For example:** ' I hate curry.' is a simple sentence.  
'I like Thai food.' is also a simple sentence.

Put these together to make one longer and more interesting compound sentence using a conjunction:

'I hate curry' + **but** + 'I like Thai food' = 'I hate curry but I like Thai food.'

Note:

- Junctions join two or more roads together and conjunctions are used to join two or more short sentences together.
- Commas are **not** conjunctions and should never be used to join short sentences together.
- The most common conjunctions are: **and, as, but, or so**.
- Avoid using the same conjunction repeatedly. It is better to 'mix and match'.

### Beware!

Conjunctions may change the meaning of the sentence.

Conjunctions don't just stick sentences together they show the **relationship** between the pieces of information.

**For example, note the slightly different meaning in these sentences:**

I walked home. I was tired.  
I walked home **and** I was tired.  
I walked home **as** I was tired.  
I walked home **but** I was tired.  
I walked home **so** I was tired.  
I walked home **or** I was tired.

The final sentence, using **or** doesn't really make sense. You can't use every conjunction everywhere - so choose wisely!