Writing Compound Sentences

**Compound sentences** are formed by connecting two complete sentences (independent clauses) with a comma and a coordinating conjunction. The sentences may also be combined with a semi-colon.

**Examples:**

**Independent clauses:**
- Maria made the birthday cake.
- Eli bought the candles.

**Compound sentence 1:** Maria made the birthday cake, and Eli bought the candles.

**Compound sentence 2:** Maria made the birthday cake; Eli bought the candles.

Combine each pair of independent clauses into a compound sentence. Use the coordinating conjunction in parentheses in the first four pairs. Use a semi-colon in the last three pairs.

1. The rain pounded against the windows.
   The wind wailed through the trees. (and)

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

2. We couldn’t go outside to play.
   We were happy the drought had ended. (but)

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

3. Would you like to play chess to pass the time?
   Would you rather play Monopoly? (or)

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________
4. I knew it would rain all afternoon.
I decided to bake cookies. (so)

5. In some places, it rains too much in the summer.
In others, it doesn’t rain enough. (;)

6. The children splashed in the muddy puddles.
They didn’t care if their clothes got messy. (;)

7. We put our umbrellas on the porch.
They dried quickly. (;)

Now write two compound sentences of your own. In the first, include a comma and a coordinating conjunction. In the second, include a semicolon.

8. ______________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________

9. ______________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________
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1. The rain pounded against the windows.
   The wind wailed through the trees. (and)

   **The rain pounded against the windows, and the wind wailed through the trees.**

2. We couldn’t go outside to play.
   We were happy the drought had ended. (but)

   **We couldn’t go outside to play, but we were happy the drought had ended.**

3. Would you like to play chess to pass the time?
   Would you rather play Monopoly? (or)

   **Would you like to play chess to pass the time, or would you rather play Monopoly?**
4. I knew it would rain all afternoon. I decided to bake cookies. (so)

   I knew it would rain all afternoon, so I decided to bake cookies.

5. In some places, it rains too much in the summer. In others, it doesn’t rain enough. (;)

   In some places, it rains too much in the summer; in others, it doesn’t rain enough.

6. The children splashed in the muddy puddles. They didn’t care if their clothes got messy. (;)

   The children splashed in the muddy puddles; they didn’t care if their clothes got messy.

7. We put our umbrellas on the porch. They dried quickly. (;)

   We put our umbrellas on the porch; they quickly dried.

Now write two compound sentences of your own. In the first, include a comma and a coordinating conjunction. In the second, include a semicolon.

8. Answers will vary.

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