

## Combining and Joining Sentences

Sometimes when we have many short sentences in a row, they become very hard to read because they are **choppy**. Choppy sentences make the reader constantly stop and start a new sentence.

Choppy sentences that are related in some way can be **combined** or **joined**. On the other hand, if sentences are not related in any way, they should **neither** be combined nor joined.

### Combining Sentences

Mike played the guitar. Mike played the flute.

You can see that these two sentences are **related** since the **subject** of both sentences is **Mike**. We can **combine** these two related choppy sentences into one longer sentence.



Mike played the guitar and flute.



Mike played the guitar. Stella played the guitar.

You can see that these two sentences are **related** since the **predicate** portion of both sentences, **played the guitar**, is the same. We can **combine** these related choppy sentences into one longer sentence.

Mike and Stella played the guitar.

A. The sentences below are choppy sentences. Write an X by each set of sentences that can have either the same subject or the same predicate combined.

1. \_\_\_ Jeff won the first race. Jeff won the second race.



2. \_\_\_ Bill drove the car. Dave painted the house.



3. \_\_\_ Mary sang a song. Mary danced.

4. \_\_\_ The couch is blue. The carpet is red.

5. \_\_\_ The food is hot. The food is delicious.

6. \_\_\_ The boat is floating. The boat is bobbing.

7. \_\_\_ Jeff wrote a story. Greg wrote a story.



8. \_\_\_ The sun was hot. The sun was bright.

9. \_\_\_ The table has four legs. The stool has three legs.

10. \_\_\_ Bill folds the laundry. Jan folds the laundry.

## Combining and Joining Sentences

On Day 1 of this lesson, we learned that **combining** two choppy sentences into one longer sentence can make a story easier to read. Of course we can only **combine** two choppy sentences when they both share the same **subject** or the same **predicate**.

What do we do with choppy sentences that do **not** share the same **subject** or the same **predicate** but are still related in some way? We **join** them.

### Joining Sentences

Mike plays the guitar.

Stella plays the flute.

These sentences do **not** have the same **subject** or **predicate**, so they cannot be combined. Since both sentences talk about **playing an instrument**, however, we can **join** them by adding one of the sentences to the end of the other. Use a word like **and** or **but** with a **comma**.

Mike plays the guitar, **but** Stella plays the flute.

*-or-*

Mike plays the guitar, **and** Stella plays the flute.

A. The pairs of sentences below are choppy. Write an X next to each set of sentences that are related in some way and can be **joined**.

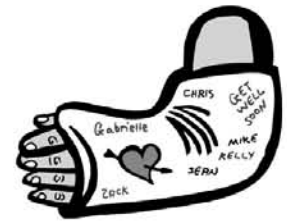
1. \_\_\_ Jeff won the first race. Randy won the second race.

2. \_\_\_ Bill drives a car. Ken eats lunch at noon.

3. \_\_\_ Mary sang a song. Martha danced.

4. \_\_\_ Harry's car runs well. Ron's truck is broken.

5. \_\_\_ Stewart has a broken arm. Louise is ready to sleep.



6. \_\_\_ Thomas likes to water ski. Amy likes snow sports.

7. \_\_\_ The grass grows quickly. The flowers do not grow very fast.

8. \_\_\_ The microwave cooks food fast. The crock pot cooks food slowly.

9. \_\_\_ The swimming pool has clear water. The pond has cloudy water.

10. \_\_\_ My hamster does tricks. Milo is a fast runner.

# Combining and Joining Sentences

A. Look at the choppy sentences below. **Combine** and rewrite the sentences that share a **subject** or **predicate** and therefore can be **combined**. Write **no** on the line if they cannot be combined.



1. Dan drinks cola. Dan drinks lemonade.

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2. We painted the inside of the house. Jack is a good singer.

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3. Deb wanted to take a walk. Jen wanted to take a walk.

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4. Karen likes tacos. Karen likes lasagna.

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# Combining and Joining Sentences

A. Look at the choppy sentences below. **Join** and rewrite those sentences that are **related in some way** and therefore can be **joined**. Write **no** on the line if they cannot be joined.

1. Joan likes to skate. Dan likes to ski.

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2. Henry road a bicycle. Stanley took the train.

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3. Mom says my music is too loud. Dad says my music is fine.

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4. Dogs love to bark at cats. My brother ran through the sprinkler.

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# Combining and Joining Sentences

A. The story below contains **choppy sentences**. Underline those choppy sentences and then rewrite them by **joining** or **combining** them as needed.



## Doing Laundry

It's time to do laundry when our clothes are dirty. Mike gets clothes from upstairs. Mary gets clothes from downstairs. We carry all of the dirty clothes to the laundry room. Mike likes to load the washer. Mary likes to load the dryer. Together we keep things moving along. Mike folds the clothes. Mary folds the clothes. We make a good team and get the job done when we work together.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_



3.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline, repeated five times.