

COMPOUND SENTENCES

Compound sentences combine independent clauses.

Compound Sentences

Definition:

Compound sentences are comprised of two independent clauses. Each independent clause could stand alone as a complete sentence because it contains a subject and a verb and is a complete thought.

Example:

European immigrants arrived at Ellis Island, and Asian immigrants arrived at Angel Island.

Types of compound sentences

There are three types of compound sentences or three ways to connect independent clauses to form compound sentences:

- Coordinating conjunctions
- Semicolons
- Conjunctive adverbs

Type 1: Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinate conjunctions (aka FAN BOYS):

- for
- and
- nor
- but
- or
- yet
- so

Compound sentences with Coordinating Conjunctions

Pattern:

S V , and S V.

Example:

European immigrants arrived at Ellis Island, and Asian immigrants arrived at Angel Island.

Asian immigrants did not arrive at Ellis Island, nor did Latin American immigrants.

Compound Sentences with Semicolons

Pattern:

S V ; S V.

Example:

European immigrants arrived at Ellis Island; Asian immigrants arrived at Angel Island.

Compound Sentences with Conjunctive Adverbs or Transitional Expressions

Pattern:

S V ; conjunctive adverb, S V.

Example:

European immigrants arrived at Ellis Island; in contrast, Asian immigrants arrived at Angel Island.

In the past Latin American immigrants faced many challenges; in addition, they face challenges today.

Compound Sentences: Importance

Compound sentences are important in writing.

- They make writing more sophisticated.
- They help connect ideas.
- They show the relationship between ideas.
- They help writers achieve sentence variety
- They can help writers have more impact.