

Commas in Compound Sentences

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

A compound sentence joins two complete sentences (independent clauses) with a comma and a FANBOYS conjunction: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. Each side must be able to stand alone. Example: I wanted to play, but it started to rain. Do NOT use a comma when 'and' or 'but' simply joins two verbs with the same subject: I ran and jumped. (one subject, two verbs — no comma). Two complete sentences joined ONLY by a comma (no FANBOYS) is called a comma splice and is wrong.

PRACTICE

Choose the best answer.

- Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
 - Lily packed her lunch, and walked to school.
 - Lily packed her lunch and she walked to school.
 - Lily packed her lunch, and she walked to school.
 - Lily packed her lunch and walked, to school.
- Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
 - The bell rang, the students lined up.
 - The bell rang and the students lined up.
 - The bell rang, and lined up the students.
 - The bell rang, and the students lined up.
- Which sentence is correct (no comma needed)?
 - The dog barked and ran in circles.
 - The dog barked, and ran in circles.
 - The dog, barked and ran in circles.
 - The dog barked and, ran in circles.
- Where should the comma go? We can go swimming or we can ride bikes.
 - after 'go'
 - after 'swimming'
 - after 'or'
 - after the second 'we'



5. Which is a compound sentence?
 - A. I love pizza and pasta.
 - B. After school, I went home.
 - C. It was cold, so I wore a coat.
 - D. Running and swimming are fun.
6. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
 - A. I wanted ice cream but, the shop was closed.
 - B. I wanted ice cream, but the shop was closed.
 - C. I wanted ice cream but the shop was closed.
 - D. I wanted ice cream, the shop was closed.
7. Which sentence does NOT need a comma?
 - A. Sara plays the piano and sings beautifully.
 - B. Sara plays the piano and her sister sings.
 - C. Sara plays the piano but she does not sing.
 - D. Sara wanted to sing yet she felt shy.
8. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
 - A. The sun was shining yet, it was very cold.
 - B. The sun was shining yet it was very cold.
 - C. The sun was shining, it was very cold.
 - D. The sun was shining, yet it was very cold.
9. Which sentence is a SIMPLE sentence (not compound)?
 - A. Marco went to the park, and Lily stayed home.
 - B. Marco and Lily went to the park.
 - C. Marco went to the park, but Lily stayed home.
 - D. Marco went to the park, so Lily came along.
10. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
 - A. I packed my lunch, and I grabbed my coat.
 - B. I packed my lunch and I grabbed my coat.
 - C. I packed my lunch and, I grabbed my coat.
 - D. I packed my lunch, I grabbed my coat.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10 A B C D

Explanations

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. C | Two complete sentences ('Lily packed her lunch' / 'she walked to school') joined by 'and' — a comma goes BEFORE 'and'. A wrongly puts a comma in a compound predicate (one subject, two verbs); B is missing the comma; D puts the comma in the wrong place. |
| 2. D | Two complete sentences must be joined with BOTH a comma AND a FANBOYS conjunction. A is a comma splice (no conjunction); B is missing the comma; C does not have a complete second clause. |
| 3. A | Here 'and' joins two verbs (barked, ran) that share ONE subject (The dog) — a compound PREDICATE, not a compound sentence. No comma is needed. B, C, and D all add a comma in the wrong place. |
| 4. B | Two complete sentences joined by 'or' take a comma BEFORE the conjunction: We can go swimming, or we can ride bikes. |
| 5. C | A compound sentence joins TWO complete sentences with a comma + FANBOYS. C does that ('It was cold' / 'I wore a coat'). A has a compound object; B is a complex sentence with an introductory phrase; D has a compound subject. |
| 6. B | The comma goes BEFORE 'but' when it joins two complete sentences. A puts the comma after the conjunction; C is missing the comma; D is a comma splice (no FANBOYS conjunction). |
| 7. A | In A, 'and' joins two verbs (plays, sings) with ONE subject (Sara) — a compound predicate, no comma. The other choices each join TWO complete sentences with FANBOYS and need a comma. |
| 8. D | Two complete sentences joined by 'yet' take a comma BEFORE the conjunction. A puts the comma after; B is missing the comma; C is a comma splice (no FANBOYS). |
| 9. B | B has a compound subject (Marco and Lily) sharing one verb (went) — still ONE complete sentence. The other choices each join two complete sentences with FANBOYS, making them compound. |
| 10. A | Two complete sentences joined by 'and' need a comma BEFORE 'and'. B is missing the comma; C puts it after the conjunction; D is a comma splice (no FANBOYS). |



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