

Improving Sentence Patterns: Combining Sentences

A good writer will change sentence patterns to make the writing more interesting to the reader. One way to change the pattern is make sentences longer by combining two sentence together. Too many short sentences in a paragraph makes the text sound choppy and boring. Combining sentences makes the text flow more smoothly, and the text becomes more interesting.

Example:

The dog ran to the fence. It began to bark.

Change to: The dog ran to the fence and began to bark.

Rewrite the sentences below combining the sentences. You may add words, such as conjunctions, as needed. Be careful to keep the meaning of the new sentence the same as the original.

1. Joshua biked to school. Elizabeth went in a car.
2. The circus clown juggled china plates. She also rode a blue bicycle.
3. Monday is a school holiday. The class will take the test on Tuesday.
4. The blue chair is too big. The brown chair is too small.
5. I washed the dishes yesterday. I made the beds today.
6. Science is Kelly's favorite subject. She wants to be a biologist.
7. No one saw the wolf in the yard. It was too dark.
8. Washington, D.C. is popular with tourists. I haven't been there.

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Answers: Student's answers will vary. Examples of correct answers:

1. Joshua biked to school. Elizabeth went in a car.

Joshua biked to school while Elizabeth went in a car.

2. The circus clown juggled china plates. She also rode a blue bicycle.

The circus clown juggled china plates and rode a blue bicycle.

3. Monday is a school holiday. The class will take the test on Tuesday.

Because Monday is a school holiday, the class will take the test on Tuesday.

4. The blue chair is too big. The brown chair is too small.

The blue chair is too big, but the brown chair is too small.

5. I washed the dishes yesterday. I made the beds today.

While I washed the dishes yesterday, I made the beds today.

6. Science is Kelly's favorite subject. She wants to be a biologist.

Science is Kelly's favorite subject, and she wants to be a biologist.

7. No one saw the wolf in the yard. It was too dark.

No one saw the wolf in the yard because it was too dark.

8. Washington, D.C. is popular with tourists. I haven't been there.

Although Washington, D.C. is popular with tourists, I haven't been there.