

# Simple and Compound Sentences

A sentence that expresses only one complete thought is a **simple sentence**. A **compound sentence** is made up of two or more simple sentences.

The subject or predicate in a simple sentence may be simple or compound.

## Examples:

### Simple Sentences

Many artists illustrate children's books.

Writers and artists create children's books. (compound subject)

They create the books and give book talks. (compound predicate)

A compound sentence is made up of two or more simple sentences joined by *and*, *or*, or *but*. Notice that a comma comes before *and*, *or*, or *but*.

### Compound Sentence

Many artists illustrate children's books, but other artists work with computer graphics.

### Vocabulary Power

**graph•ic** [gra'fik] *adj.*

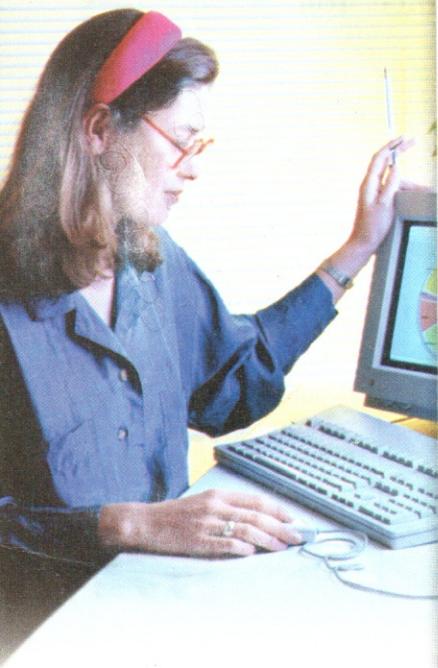
Having to do with drawing, painting, photography, or engraving.

## Guided Practice

A. Identify each sentence as *simple* or *compound*. Explain your answer.

**Example:** Some artists go to art school, but others teach themselves to draw. *compound*

1. One artist began drawing in high school.
2. At first she wanted to illustrate science books, but her interests changed.
3. She went to art school, and she decided on a new goal.
4. She enjoyed designing cards and went to work for a greeting card company.
5. She designed greeting cards, and she learned about business.



Coordinating  
Conjunctions

and	for
but	so
or	yet



# Conjunctions in Compound Sentences

The simple sentences that make up a **compound sentence** are usually joined by a **coordinating conjunction**.

The conjunctions most often used to join simple sentences are *and*, *but*, and *or*.

A coordinating conjunction shows the relationship between two sentences. *And* joins two sentences that are closely related. *Or* joins two sentences that are about choices. *But* joins two sentences that tell about difference.

### Examples:

Commercial artists design Websites, **and** they illustrate computer programs.

Commercial artists design Websites, **or** they develop new packaging.

Commercial artists design Websites, **but** they don't teach classes about the Internet.

Notice that a comma is used before the conjunction that joins the main parts of a compound sentence.

## Guided Practice

A. Identify the coordinating conjunction in each sentence.

**Example:** Website designers must be creative, and they must understand computers, too. *and*

1. Websites can give information, or they can sell products and services.
2. Website designers must create attractive sites, and they must be sure the information is clear.
3. These designers get some ideas from other Websites, but they must use their own ideas, too.
4. Website designers must understand art, and they must know what attracts people to visit Websites.
5. Some Website artists first sketch out ideas on paper, but others design on the computer.

# Combining Sentences: Semicolons and Conjunctions

**Conjunctions** or **semicolons** may be used to combine sentences.

Most of the time, the conjunctions *and*, *or*, and *but* are used to join simple sentences. When the relationship between the sentences is clear without a conjunction, you can use a semicolon to join them. Using semicolons adds variety to your sentences. When you use a semicolon, do not use a conjunction.

### Examples:

Many books have illustrations, **but** children's book illustration is a special art.

Some illustrations in children's books are black and white; others are printed in color.

## Guided Practice

A. Tell how the two simple sentences are joined in each compound sentence.

**Example:** This book has beautiful pictures, and they help tell the story. *comma and the conjunction and*

1. Artists first read the story, and then they create illustrations.
2. Illustrations make books attractive, and they provide information.
3. Math textbooks usually have more charts, but reading textbooks have more drawings.
4. Science books may show drawings of the solar system, or they may include photographs of plants.
5. Textbook illustrations cannot look old-fashioned; students will not like them.

