

Varying Sentences

This packet contains 4 different organizers to help teach students to vary sentences. Look carefully at the organizers before printing because several versions are provided.

[Get the PowerPoint here.](#)



By Gay Miller

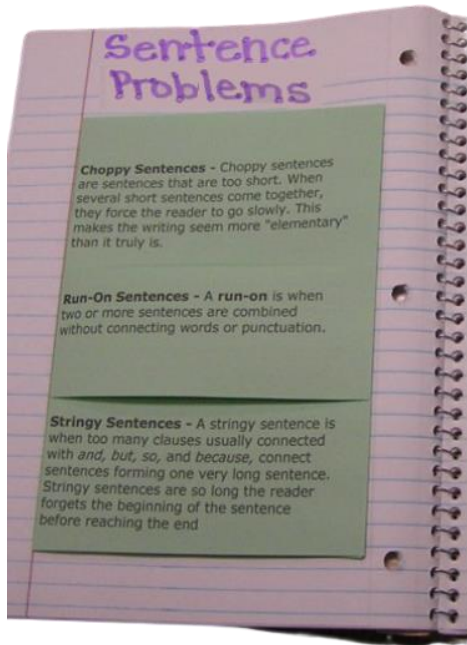
Sentence Problems Organizer

Instructions for Completing the Organizer:

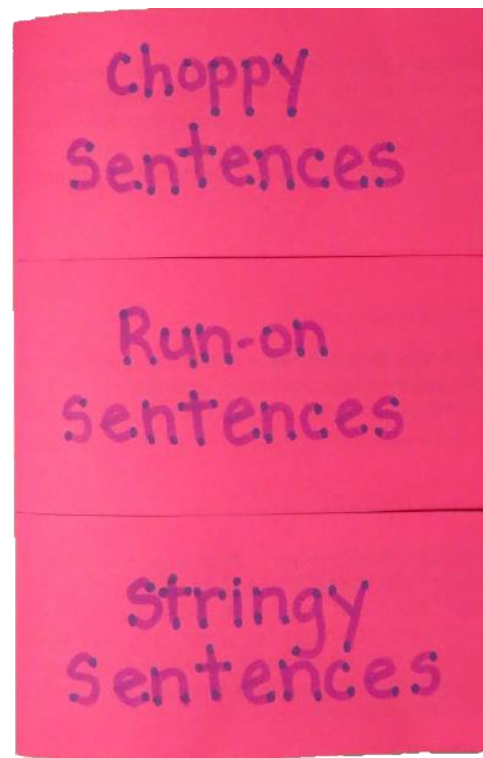
- Print the organizer onto colored paper. Trim the edges.
- Fold on the dotted line.
- Cut on the solid lines between flaps up to the dotted fold line.
- Have students fill in missing information.

Six versions of this organizer are provided. The first is blank for students to write their own definitions and examples. The second contains example sentences that need to be corrected. It may be used for differentiated instruction. Version 3 is an answer key for Versions 1-2.

Versions 4-6 must be printed on both sides of the paper. The outside contains the rules and the inside has practice.



The graphic organizers will fit into an interactive notebook after the edges are trimmed.



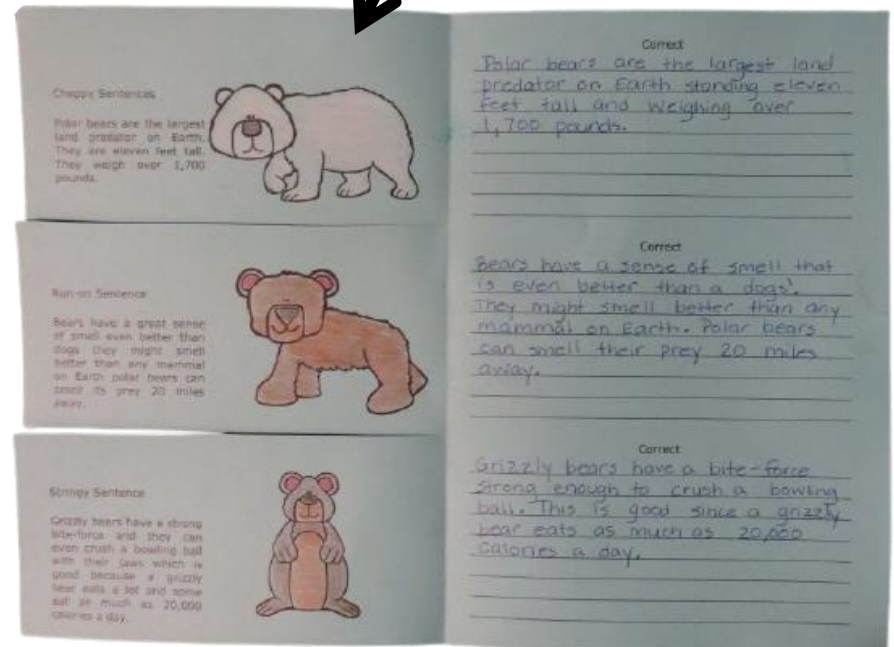
Choppy Sentences - Choppy sentences are sentences that are too short. When several short sentences come together, they force the reader to go slowly. This makes the writing seem more "elementary" than it truly is.

Run-On Sentences - A **run-on** is when two or more sentences are combined without connecting words or punctuation.

Stringy Sentences - A stringy sentence is when too many clauses usually connected with and, but, so, and because, connect sentences forming one very long sentence. Stringy sentences are so long the reader forgets the beginning of the sentence before reaching the end.

Versions 1-3 have no printed information on the outside with rules and room for examples on the inside.

Versions 4-6 must be printed back-to-front. They contain rules on the outside and practice on the inside.



Choppy Sentences

Polar bears are the largest land predator on Earth. They are eleven feet tall. They weigh over 1,700 pounds.



Run-on Sentence

Bears have a great sense of smell even better than dogs they might smell better than any mammal on Earth polar bears can track its prey 20 miles away.



Stringy Sentence

Grizzly bears have a strong bite-force and they can even crush a bowling ball with their jaws which is good because a grizzly bear eats a lot and some eat as much as 20,000 calories a day.



Correct

Polar bears are the largest land predator on Earth standing eleven feet tall and weighing over 1,700 pounds.

Correct

Bears have a sense of smell that is even better than a dog's. They might smell better than any mammal on Earth. Polar bears can smell their prey 20 miles away.

Correct

Grizzly bears have a bite-force strong enough to crush a bowling ball. This is good since a grizzly bear eats as much as 20,000 calories a day.

Choppy Sentences

Examples

Run-On Sentences

Examples

Stringy Sentences

Examples

Choppy Sentences

Choppy Sentences

They didn't buy tickets in time. They couldn't see the play.

Corrected

Run-On Sentences

Run-On I usually don't like ice cream I ate every bite of the fudge ripple.

Corrected

Stringy Sentences

Stringy She wanted to go to the baseball game, but it was raining, so she stayed home and watched television because SpongeBob SquarePants was one of her favorite shows.

Corrected

Choppy Sentences - Choppy sentences are sentences that are too short. When several short sentences come together, they force the reader to go slowly. This makes the writing seem more "elementary" than it truly is.

Choppy Sentences

They didn't buy tickets in time. They couldn't see the play.

Corrected

They didn't buy tickets in time, so they couldn't see the play.

Run-On Sentences - A run-on is when two or more sentences are combined without connecting words or punctuation.

Run-On I usually don't like ice cream I ate every bite of the fudge ripple.

Corrected

I usually don't like ice cream, yet I ate every bite of the fudge ripple.

Even though I usually don't like ice cream, I ate every bite of the fudge ripple.

Stringy Sentences - A stringy sentence is when too many clauses usually connected with *and*, *but*, *so*, and *because*, connect sentences forming one very long sentence. Stringy sentences are so long the reader forgets the beginning of the sentence before reaching the end.

Stringy She wanted to go to the baseball game, but it was raining, so she stayed home and watched television because SpongeBob SquarePants was one of her favorite shows.

Corrected

She wanted to go to the baseball game, but it was raining. This is when she decided to stay home and watched television because one of her favorite television shows, SpongeBob SquarePants, was on.

Choppy Sentences - _____

Run-On Sentences - _____

Stringy Sentences - _____

Choppy Sentences - Choppy sentences are sentences that are too _____. When several _____ sentences come _____, they force the reader to go _____. This makes the writing seem more "_____" than it truly is.

Run-On Sentences - A **run-on** is when _____ or _____ sentences are combined without _____ words or _____.

Stringy Sentences - A stringy sentence is when too many _____ usually connected with _____, _____, _____, and _____, connect sentences forming one very _____ sentence. Stringy sentences are so _____ the reader forgets the _____ of the sentence before reaching the _____.

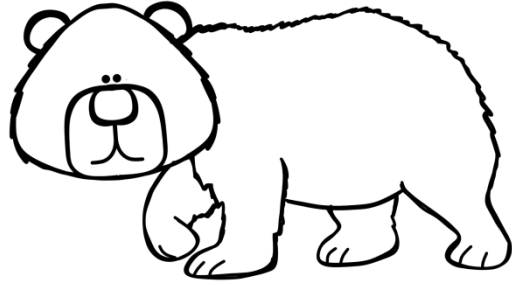
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Run-On Sentences - A **run-on** is when two or more sentences are combined without connecting words or punctuation.

Stringy Sentences - A stringy sentence is when too many clauses usually connected with *and*, *but*, *so*, and *because*, connect sentences forming one very long sentence. Stringy sentences are so long the reader forgets the beginning of the sentence before reaching the end.

Choppy Sentences

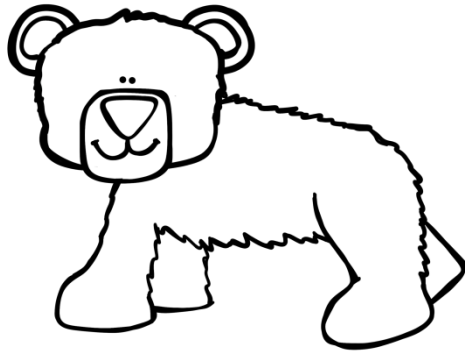
Polar bears are the largest land predator on Earth. They are eleven feet tall. They weigh over 1,700 pounds.



Correct

Run-on Sentence

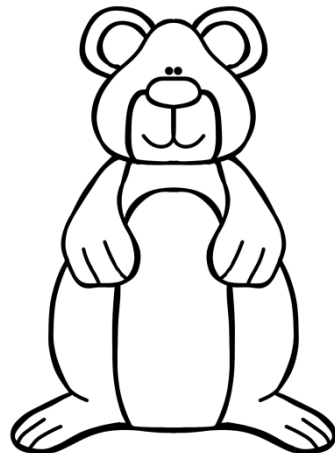
Bears have a great sense of smell even better than dogs they might smell better than any mammal on Earth polar bears can smell its prey 20 miles away.



Correct

Stringy Sentence

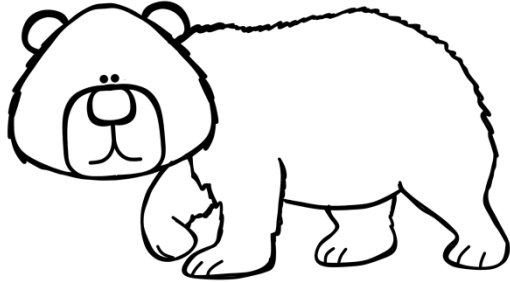
Grizzly bears have a strong bite-force and they can even crush a bowling ball with their jaws which is good because a grizzly bear eats a lot and some eat as much as 20,000 calories a day.



Correct

Choppy Sentences

Polar bears are the largest land predator on Earth. They are eleven feet tall. They weigh over 1,700 pounds.



Choppy Sentences

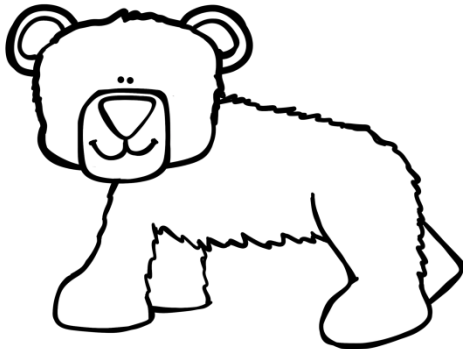
Polar bears are the largest land predator on Earth. They are eleven feet tall. They weigh over 1,700 pounds.

Corrected

Polar bears are the largest land predator on Earth standing eleven feet tall and weighing over 1,700 pounds

Run-on Sentence

Bears have a great sense of smell even better than dogs they might smell better than any mammal on Earth polar bears can smell its prey 20 miles away.



Run-On

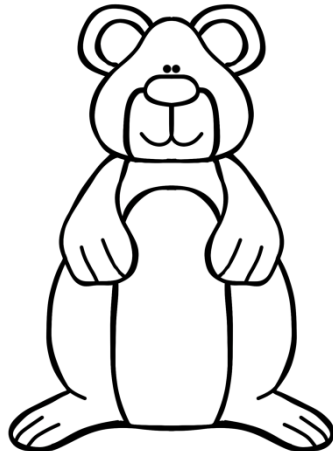
Bears have a great sense of smell even better than dogs they might smell better than any mammal on Earth polar bears can smell its prey 20 miles away.

Corrected

Bears have a sense of smell that is even better than dogs'. They might smell better than any mammal on Earth. Polar bears can smell their prey 20 miles away.

Stringy Sentence

Grizzly bears have a strong bite-force and they can even crush a bowling ball with their jaws which is good because a grizzly bear eats a lot and some eat as much as 20,000 calories a day.



Stringy

Grizzly bears have a strong bite-force and they can even crush a bowling ball with their jaws which is good because a grizzly bear eats a lot and some eat as much as 20,000 calories a day.

Corrected

Grizzly bears have a bite-force strong enough to crush a bowling ball. This is good since a grizzly bear eats as much as 20,000 calories a day.

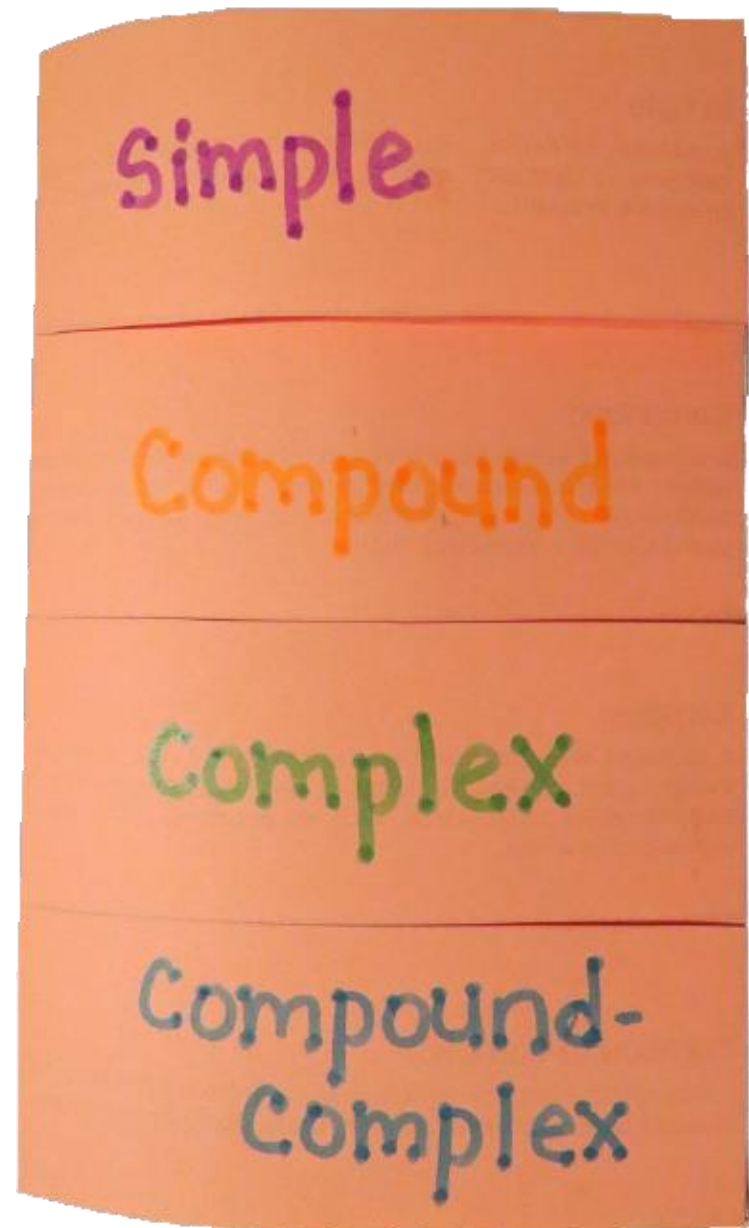
Types of Sentences Organizer

Instructions for Completing the Organizer:

- Print the organizer onto colored paper.
- Trim the edges.
- Fold on the dotted line.
- Cut on the solid lines between flaps up to the dotted fold line.
- Have students fill in missing information.

Three versions of this organizer are provided. The first is blank for students to write their own definitions and examples. The second version has the definition stated with blanks for students to write in key words. The third is completed. It may be used for differentiated instruction or for an answer key.

The graphic organizers will fit into an interactive notebook after the edges are trimmed.



Simple

Example

Compound

Example

Complex

Example

Compound-Complex

Example

Simple

A simple sentence, also called an _____ clause, contains a _____ and a _____, and it expresses a _____ thought.

Example

Compound

A compound sentence is made up of two simple sentences joined by a coordinating conjunction (_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, or _____) and a comma or by a semicolon alone.

Example

Complex

A complex sentence combines a _____ clause with an _____ clause. A complex sentence always has a subordinating conjunction such as _____, _____, or _____.

Example

Compound-Complex

A compound-complex sentence is comprised of at least two _____ clauses and one or more _____ clauses.

Example

Simple

A simple sentence, also called an independent clause, contains a subject and a verb, and it expresses a complete thought.

Examples

Sally likes to eat cake and ice cream.

Bill likes to eat pizza, hot dogs, and pie.

Compound

A compound sentence is made up of two simple sentences called independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, or so*) and a comma or by a semicolon alone.

Examples

I like to eat cake, but Joe will only eat ice cream.

Bill will eat hot dogs all day long, so his mother must lock the refrigerator.

Complex

A complex sentence combines a dependent clause with an independent clause. A complex sentence always has a subordinating conjunction such as *because, since, after, although, or when*.

Examples

While I was eating cake, Peter was eating ice cream.

I was eating cake while Peter was eating ice cream.

Compound-Complex

A compound-complex sentence is comprised of at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Example

His mom locked the refrigerator because Bill would eat all day long, and he would become sick.

Correcting Run-On Sentences

Things to Remember:

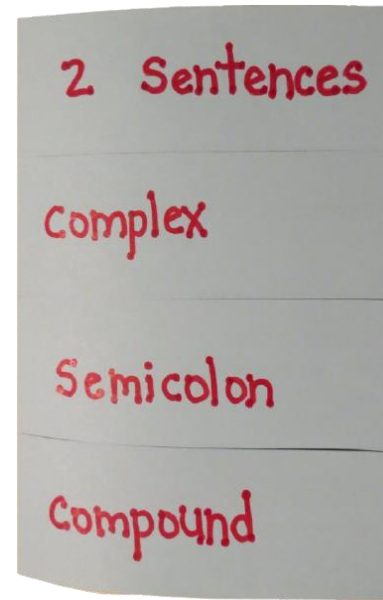
- A run-on sentence is two or more sentences that are incorrectly written as one sentence.
- The length of the sentence has nothing to do with it being a run-on sentence.
- There are **four methods** for correcting run-on sentences. They are:
 1. Making separate sentences.
 2. Linking the sentences or clauses with a coordinating conjunction. (The seven coordinating conjunctions are easy to remember by the acronym FANBOYS: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, and So.)
 3. Joining the two clauses with a semicolon.
 4. Making one of the clauses a dependent by adding a subordinating conjunction such as since, which, that, although, because, or while.

Instructions for Completing the Organizer:

- Print the organizer onto colored paper.
- Trim the edges.
- Fold on the dotted line.
- Cut on the solid lines between flaps up to the dotted fold line.
- Have students fill in missing information.

Four versions of this organizer are provided. The first is blank for students to write their own examples. The second version has an incorrect sentence for the students to correct using the four different methods. The third is completed. It may be used for differentiated instruction or for an answer key. The fourth version must be printed back-to-front. The rules are on the outside and the practice is on the inside.

The graphic organizers will fit into an interactive notebook after the edges are trimmed.



Make two separate sentences.

Make a complex sentence by adding a subordinating conjunction.

Add a semicolon.

Make a compound sentence by adding a coordinating conjunction.

Version 1 is plain on the outside with rules and room for examples on the inside.

Version 2 must be printed back-to-front. It contains the rules on the outside and practice on the inside.

Incorrect
Most owls eat insects, small mammals and other birds some owls hunt fish.

Correct by Making Two Sentences
Most owls eat insects, small mammals and other birds. Some owls hunt fish.

Incorrect
Owl are farsighted this means they can't see very clearly close to their eyes.

Correct by Making a Complex Sentence
Since owls are farsighted, they can't see very clearly close to their eyes.

Incorrect
A group of owls is called a parliament this description originated from C.S. Lewis' description in The Chronicles of Narnia.

Correct by Using a Semicolon
A group of owls is called a parliament; this description originated from C.S. Lewis' description in The Chronicles of Narnia.

Incorrect
The tiniest owl in the world is the Elf Owl which is five inches tall the largest North American owl is the Great Gray Owl which is 32 inches tall.

Correct by Making a Compound Sentence
The tiniest owl in the world is the Elf Owl which is five inches tall, and the largest North American owl is the Great Gray Owl which is 32 inches tall.

Make two separate sentences.

Incorrect

Correct

Make a complex sentence by adding a subordinating conjunction.

Incorrect

Correct

Add a semicolon.

Incorrect

Correct

Make a compound sentence by adding a coordinating conjunction.

Incorrect

Correct

Make two separate sentences.

Incorrect The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's the reason it was built was to control flooding.

Correct

Make a complex sentence by adding a subordinating conjunction.

Incorrect The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's they could control flooding.

Correct

Add a semicolon.

Incorrect The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's the reason it was built was to control flooding.

Correct

Make a compound sentence by adding a coordinating conjunction.

Incorrect The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's the reason it was built was to control flooding.

Correct

Make two separate sentences.

Incorrect The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's the reason it was built was to control flooding.

Correct

The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's.
The reason it was built was to control flooding.

Make a complex sentence by adding a subordinating conjunction.

Incorrect The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's they could control flooding.

Correct

The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's, so they could control flooding.

Add a semicolon.

Incorrect The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's the reason it was built was to control flooding.

Correct

The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's; the reason it was built was to control flooding.

Make a compound sentence by adding a coordinating conjunction.

Incorrect The Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's the reason it was built was to control flooding.

Correct

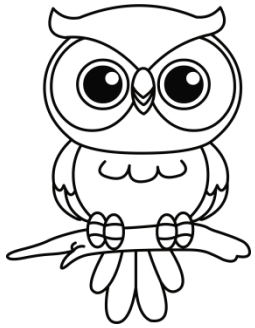
Because they needed to control flooding, the Tennessee Valley Authority built Watauga Dam in the 1940's.

Make two separate sentences.

Make a complex sentence by adding a subordinating conjunction.

Add a semicolon.

Make a compound sentence by adding a coordinating conjunction.



Incorrect

Most owls eat insects, small mammals and other birds some owls hunt fish.

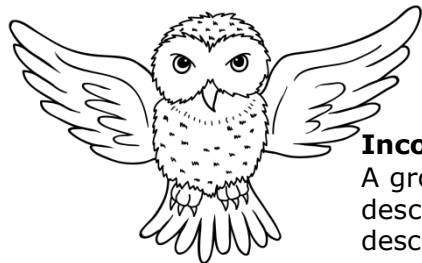
Correct by Making Two Sentences



Incorrect

Owls are farsighted this means they can't see very clearly close to their eyes.

Correct by Making a Complex Sentence



Incorrect

A group of owls is called a parliament this description originated from C.S. Lewis' description in The Chronicles of Narnia.

Correct by Using a Semicolon



Incorrect

The tiniest owl in the world is the Elf Owl which is five inches tall the largest North American owl is the Great Gray Owl which is 32 inches tall.

Correct by Making a Compound Sentence

Answer Key



Incorrect

Most owls eat insects, small mammals and other birds some owls hunt fish.

Correct by Making Two Sentences

Most owls eat insects, small mammals and other birds. Some owls hunt fish.



Incorrect

Owl are farsighted this means they can't see very clearly close to their eyes.

Correct by Making a Complex Sentence

Since owls are farsighted, they can't see very clearly close to their eyes.



Incorrect

A group of owls is called a parliament this description originated from C.S. Lewis' description in The Chronicles of Narnia.

Correct by Using a Semicolon

A group of owls is called a parliament; this description originated from C.S. Lewis' description in The Chronicles of Narnia.



Incorrect

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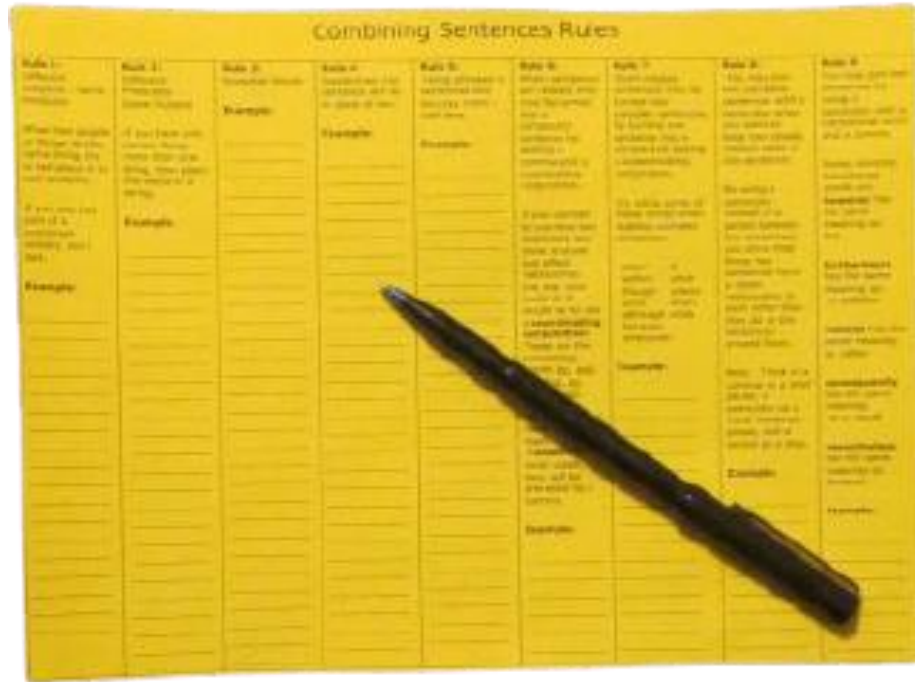
Correct by Making a Compound Sentence

The tiniest owl in the world is the Elf Owl which is five inches tall, and the largest North American owl is the Great Gray Owl which is 32 inches tall.

Combining Sentences Rules

This is a one page, quick reference sheet. It contains 9 examples of when sentences should be combined (repeated information, better wording, sentence variety).

The rules are provided. Students write examples for each



Combining Sentences Rules

Rule 1:	Rule 2:	Rule 3:	Rule 4:	Rule 5:	Rule 6:	Rule 7:	Rule 8:	Rule 9:
<p>Different Subjects - Same Predicate When two people or things do the same thing, try to tell about it in one sentence. If you use I as part of a combined subject, put I last. Example:</p>	<p>Different Predicates - Same Subject If you have one person doing more than one thing, then place the verbs in a string. Example:</p>	<p>Repeated Words Example:</p>	<p>Sometimes one sentence will do in place of two. Example:</p>	<p>Using phrases in sentences lets you say more - with less. Example:</p>	<p>When sentences are related they may be turned into a compound sentence by adding a comma and a coordinating conjunction. If you wanted to combine two sentences and show a cause and effect relationship, one way you could do it would be to use a coordinating conjunction. These are the connecting words <u>for</u>, <u>and</u>, <u>nor</u>, <u>but</u>, <u>or</u>, <u>yet</u>, and <u>so</u>. One way to remember all of them is to call them "FANBOYS." In most cases, they will be preceded by a comma. Example:</p>	<p>Short choppy sentences may be turned into complex sentences by turning one sentence into a phrase and adding a subordinating conjunction. Try using some of these words when building complex sentences: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> after if </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 2px;"> before since </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 2px;"> though unless </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 2px;"> until when </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 2px;"> although while </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 2px;"> because </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 2px;"> whenever </div> </p>	<p>You may join two complete sentences with a semicolon when you want to keep two closely related ideas in one sentence. By using a semicolon instead of a period between two sentences, you show that those two sentences have a closer relationship to each other than they do to the sentences around them. Note: Think of a comma as a brief pause, a semicolon as a more moderate pause, and a period as a stop. Example:</p>	<p>You may join two sentences by using a semicolon with a transitional word and a comma. Some common transitional words are: however has the same meaning as <i>but</i> furthermore has the same meaning as <i>in addition</i> instead has the same meaning as <i>rather</i> consequently has the same meaning as <i>as a result</i> nevertheless has the same meaning as <i>however</i> Example:</p>

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