For more information on commas and coordinating conjunctions, see Mini -Lesson #8, "Coordinating Two Sentences" and *The Everyday* Writer, 3rd Edition, Section 22a

(pages 187-188).





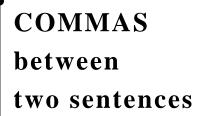


## KENT STATE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

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http://dept.kent.edu/english/WritingCent/writingcenter/mini.htm



Mini-Lesson #25



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Commas alone cannot join two complete sentences. However, a comma with one of the following coordinating conjunctions can combine two complete sentences:

and
but
or
for (meaning "because")
so
yet (meaning "but")
nor

These coordinating conjunctions can be used to join ideas of equal weight or importance:

My dog is old. My cat is still a kitten.

My dog is old, but my cat is still a kitten.

## Use these examples as a guide for using commas to combine two sentences:

Ann Landers is an advice columnist, and her sister writes an advice column too.

Mike looked for the way out of the cave, **but** he couldn't remember which tunnel led outside.

Are you coming to the movies with us, **or** are you going to the mall with them?

The actors were all more nervous than usual before a play, **for** they had heard that the President and First Lady were in the audience.

Jeanette felt she had very poor public speaking skills, **so** she signed up for a noncredit speech course in order to practice.

I couldn't get into the class, **yet** I needed it to graduate.

The first taxicab did not stop for us, **nor** did any of the other four that passed us in the next hour.

## **Useful vocabulary:**

<u>Independent Clause</u> is another way to refer to a complete sentence, An independent clause must include a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

<u>Comma splice</u> refers to two sentences joined only with the comma without the coordinating conjunction that should follow.

**Run-on** refers to two sentences joined only with a coordinating conjunction without the comma preceding it.

<u>Fused sentence</u> refers to two sentences joined with no comma and no coordinating conjunction.

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