



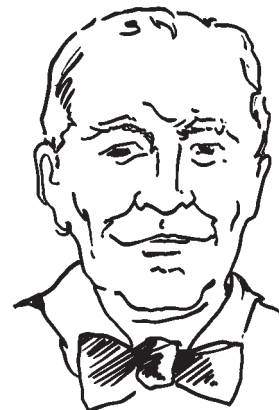
Time to Experiment



Combining sentences helps to eliminate the problem of short or choppy sentences in paragraphs. You can often combine related sentences into compound sentences by using the conjunctions and, but, or, and so. Compare the following two paragraphs and decide which is easier to understand.

Young Alva was curious about everything. That curiosity led him to continually ask questions. His mother had been a teacher. She didn't always know the answers. If no one could tell him, he experimented. Once he wanted to know how hens hatch chickens. He put some eggs in a basket and sat on them. Can you guess who Alva is? Do you need another hint?

Young Alva was curious about everything, and that curiosity led him to continually ask questions. His mother had been a teacher, but she didn't always know the answers. If no one could tell him, he experimented. Once he wanted to know how hens hatch chickens, so he put some eggs in a basket and sat on them. Can you guess who Alva is, or do you need another hint?



Read the paragraph. Place parentheses around the pairs of sentences that can be combined with *and*, *but*, *or*, or *so*. Then rewrite the paragraph with the combined sentences. Remember to include commas.

My brother Alex has more "interests" than anyone I know. The novelty always wears off very quickly. I know my brother! Last week, Alex wanted to join the school band. He asked if he could rent a drum set. I burst out laughing. My parents just looked at each other. I knew what they were thinking. Would they be able to convince Alex to try something a little quieter? Would he insist on the drums? Well, they convinced Alex to try something else. It wasn't something quieter. Today he informed us that he's decided to try the tuba. In fact, the school has an extra tuba. Mom and Dad won't have to rent one. Needless to say, I hope this novelty wears off very, very, very quickly!



Write another paragraph to continue the story. Tell what you think will happen. Include several compound sentences.

Page 15

My brother Alex has more “interests” than anyone I know, but the novelty always wears off very quickly. I know my brother! Last week, Alex wanted to join the school band, so he asked if he could rent a drum set. I burst out laughing, and my parents just looked at each other. I knew what they were thinking. Would they be able to convince Alex to try something a little quieter, or would he insist on the drums? Well, they convinced Alex to try something else, but it wasn’t something quieter. Today he informed us that he’s decided to try the tuba. In fact, the school has an extra tuba, so Mom and Dad won’t have to rent one. Needless to say, I hope this novelty wears off very, very, very quickly!