**Compound Sentences - What are They?**

Compound sentences are made up of two simple sentences connected by a [coordinating conjunction](http://esl.about.com/od/grammarguides/f/What-Are-Conjunctions.htm). These conjunctions are also known as FANBOYS:

**F** - For  
**A** - And  
**N** - Nor  
**B** - But  
**O** - Or  
**Y** - Yet  
**S** - So

Tom arrived home. Then, he ate dinner. ->**Tom arrived home, and ate dinner.**  
We studied many hours for the test. We didn't pass the test. -> **We studied many hours for the test, but we didn't pass it.**  
Peter doesn't need to buy a new car. He also doesn't need to go on vacation. ->**Peter doesn't need to buy a new car, nor does he need to go on vacation.**

**Conjunction Use in Compound Sentences**

Conjunctions are used for different purposes in sentences. **A comma is always placed before the conjunction.** Here are the main uses of the FANBOYS:

**Addition / Next Action**

*and*

addition -> Tom enjoys playing tennis, and he likes cooking.  
next action -> We drove home, and we went to bed.

**Opposition - Unexpected Results**

*but / yet*

We wanted to visit our friends, but we didn't have enough money to get a flight.  
Janet did very well on her job interview, yet she didn't get the position.

**Cause / Effect**

*for / so*

cause -> Mary needed some new clothing, so she went shopping.  
effect -> They stayed home for the holiday, for they had to work.

**Choice Between Two**

*or*

We thought we might go to see a film, or we might have dinner out.  
Angela said she might buy him a watch, or she might give him a gift certificate.

**Not One nor the Other**

*nor*

We won't be able to visit our friends, nor will they be able to visit us this summer.  
Sharon isn't going to the conference, nor is she going to present there.

**NOTE:** Notice how when using 'nor' the [sentence structure](http://esl.about.com/od/Intermediate_Verb_Resource/a/Sentence-Structure-Chart.htm) is inverted. In other words, after 'nor' place the helping verb before the subject.

**Compound Sentence Exercise 1**

Use FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) to write one compound sentence using the two simple sentences.

1. Peter drove to visit his friend. They went out for dinner.
2. Mary thinks she should go to school. She wants to get qualifications for a new profession.
3. Alan invested a lot of money in the business. The business went bankrupt.
4. Doug didn't understand the homework assignment. He asked the teacher for help.
5. The students didn't prepare for the test. They didn't realize how important the test was.
6. Susan thinks she should stay home and relax. She also thinks she should go on vacation.
7. The doctors looked at the x-rays. They decided to operate on the patient.
8. We went out on the town. We came home late.
9. Jack flew to London to visit his Uncle. He also wanted to visit the National Museum.
10. We needed some food for the week. We went to the supermarket.

**Exercise 2:**   
Use each of the ten compound sentence below as the model for a new sentence of your own.

**Example:**  
*Original sentence:* "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."  
(George Orwell,*Nineteen Eighty-Four*, 1949)  
*Imitation:* It was a dark, snowy morning in Watertown, and the schools were closing for the day.

1. Everyone knows how to talk, but hardly anyone knows what to say.

1. You will face many defeats in your life, but never let yourself be defeated.
2. A long time ago, there was no such thing as school, and children spent their days learning a trade.

1. Harry was holding the door open for Nick, but he drifted through the wall instead.

1. "The drought had lasted now for ten million years, and the reign of the terrible lizards had long since ended."  
   (Arthur C. Clarke,*2001: A Space Odyssey*, 1968)

1. Every year thousands of salmon swim up the stream near my house, yet I have scarcely ever seen one.

1. "I have tried to know absolutely nothing about a great many things, and I have succeeded fairly well."  
   (attributed to Robert Benchley)

1. "Some automatic device clicked in her big brain, and her knees felt weak, and there was a chilly feeling in her stomach."  
   (Kurt Vonnegut,*Galápagos*, 1985)

1. "Life is full of loneliness and misery and suffering and unhappiness, and it's all over much too quickly."  
   (adapted from Woody Allen,*Annie Hall*, 1977)

1. His hands are mittened, his ears are muffed, and his body is cased with thermal underwear, but the damp sock on his right foot is really uncomfortable.  
   (adapted from "You Can Tell a Hunter by What He Hunts" by Vance Bourjaily)