Level A: High level Activity (Conjunctions)

**Combining Sentences**

Writing shorter sentences is an easy strategy for getting your thoughts down fast when you’re writing first drafts, and for avoiding grammar mistakes, but in the end it weakens the effectiveness of your writing.  If you can combine simpler sentences into longer and more complex ones, your writing will have a lot more variety.  It will also help you to communicate more content to your audiences—when you combine sentences, you can efficiently tell your readers about the relationships between different things.

The following will give you some basic information on how to combine sentences, and then you will have the chance to practice sentence combining yourself.

### Conjunctions

Conjunctions are simple words that allow you to connect two sentences without having to change any of the words in the original sentences:

and, but, nor, or, so, yet, for = FANBOYS

## Subordination

Unlike the conjunction and coordination examples above, subordination changes one of the two sentences so that it becomes dependent upon the other sentence—it is subordinated to the other sentence. Unlike the conjunctions and coordinators above, subordination words and clauses do not always go between sentences.

after, although, as, as if, because, before, even if, even though, for, if, if only, rather than, since, that, though, unless, until, when, where, whereas, wherever, whether, which, while

**Practice is on the next page!**

Use the material in the combining sentences pages to revise the sentences below.

**Coordinating Conjunctions**

1. Plans for renovating downtown into an upscale shopping center were finalized. Discussions began on budgeting city funds for the project.
2. The nearest supermarket started to carry produce and spices that specifically matched the diets of many people in the community. Shoppers continued to be lured to the big-box store out on the highway.
3. The main office has cut our printing and copying budget. We will need to rely more heavily on e-mail, Skype, and instant messaging.
4. The professor suspected that the student was plagiarizing on the final paper. The student may have been plagiarizing since the beginning of the semester.
5. Please respond to this e-mail at your earliest convenience, so that I can get started here. Include your notes as an attachment.

**Subordinating Conjunctions**

1. I had to hand the project over to Max. You didn’t respond to any of my e-mails.
2. Another candidate with more qualifications applies in the next forty-eight hours. You should get the position without any difficulties.
3. Viktor had prepared and practiced for the presentation thoroughly. The projector died and the presentation was not successful.
4. Keep calling our customers from last year. You make your sales quota.
5. The instructor copies his lesson directly from the textbook. The students lose interest and doze off.