

Using a variety of sentences is a sign of advanced writing style. By combining short, simple sentences together into compound and complex sentences, you can also show how your ideas are connected.

### Compound Sentences

- 1 independent clause + 1 independent clause
- use this type of sentence when two ideas are equally important
- 3 ways to join the clauses together

**1) Use a comma + a coordinator** (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*)

e.g. The planet has atmospheric conditions similar to those on Earth, **so** scientists speculate that the planet might be habitable.

**2) Use a semi-colon** if the sentences are closely related in meaning

e.g. The planet has atmospheric conditions similar to those on Earth; scientists speculate that the planet might be habitable.

**3) Use a semi-colon + a conjunctive adverb** (*however, therefore, for example*) + a comma

e.g. The planet has atmospheric conditions similar to those on Earth; **therefore**, scientists speculate that the planet might be habitable.

### Complex Sentences

- 1 independent clause + 1 dependent clause
- use this type of sentence when one idea is more important than the other
- if the dependent clause comes before the **independent clause**, put a comma after it

e.g. When scientists discovered a planet with atmospheric conditions similar to those on Earth, **they speculated that the planet might be habitable.**

e.g. **Scientists speculate that the planet might be habitable** because it has atmospheric conditions similar to those on Earth.

### Compound-Complex Sentences

- 2 or more independent clauses + 1 or more dependent clause
- use the same punctuation rules for compound and complex sentences

e.g. When scientists discovered a planet with atmospheric conditions similar to those on Earth, they speculated that the planet might be habitable; as a result, NASA intends to send a probe to the planet in 2018.