

21.3

Simplifying Long, Confusing Sentences

(Shortening Long Compound Sentences, Shortening Long Complex Sentences) • Practice 1

Shortening Long Compound Sentences Recognize compound sentences that ramble, and separate them into two or more shorter sentences.

Rambling Compound Sentence	Revision
Joe has several computer games, and Paul has several different ones, so they trade from time to time, and neither gets bored with his own.	Joe has several computer games, and Paul has several different ones. They trade from time to time, so neither gets bored with his own.

Shortening Long Complex Sentences Recognize complex sentences that are too complicated, and separate them into shorter sentences.

Complicated Complex Sentence	Revision
The first transcontinental auto trip, which was made in 1903 when two men drove from San Francisco to New York City, was a remarkable feat because roads were poor and gasoline was hard to find.	The first transcontinental auto trip was made in 1903 when two men drove from San Francisco to New York City. It was a remarkable feat because roads were poor and gasoline was hard to find.

Exercise 1 Shortening Long Compound Sentences. Divide each long compound sentence into two or more shorter sentences.

EXAMPLE: Few people are indifferent to cats, for most either love them or hate them, and they make no secret of their feelings.

Few people are indifferent to cats. Most either love them or hate them and make no secret of their feelings.

- The Nile overflowed every spring and deposited a layer of rich soil, and as a result the soil along the banks of the river never wore out.

- Young Ben Franklin helped his father make candles and soap, but he found the work boring, and he eagerly accepted his brother's offer to teach him printing.

Exercise 2 Shortening Complicated Complex Sentences. Divide each long complex sentence into two or more shorter sentences.

- Although the Bisons were far behind at the half, their fans, who rarely became discouraged, continued to hope for a miracle, which occurred in the third period when the Bisons scored three quick touchdowns and held on to win.

- The action of the movie takes place on the *Twentieth Century Limited*, a fast train which used to travel between New York and Chicago but which has been discontinued.

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Simplifying Long, Confusing Sentences

(Shortening Long Compound Sentences, Shortening Long Complex Sentences) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 Shortening Compound Sentences. Rewrite each compound sentence by breaking it up into shorter sentences.

EXAMPLE: The batter slugged a line drive to left field and easily made it to first base, and then the ball was thrown to the infield, and he slid into second head first, and the shortstop missed the tag, so the runner was safe with a double.

The batter slugged a line drive to left field and easily made it to first base. Then the ball was thrown to the infield, and he slid into second, head first. The shortstop missed the tag, so the runner was safe with a double.

- The myths of ancient Greece have inspired writers for centuries, and writers have studied the personalities of many Greek characters, and they have followed many of the plots of Greek stories.

- A dog can be both an ally and a burden to its master, and it can often be a source of protection and love, but it can also be both an expense and a continuous responsibility.

- To wire the driftwood as a lamp, you must drill a hole through it, and then you must mount it on a stand, and next you must pull electrical wire through the wood and attach a light socket to the top.

Exercise 2 Shortening Complicated Complex Sentences. Break up the complex sentences into shorter sentences by changing the order of ideas and adding or eliminating words.

EXAMPLE: New York is a fast-paced city that can never bore the people who visit it because it contains fascinating museums and historical sights, which tourists can explore, as well as many restaurants, concerts, and plays, which they can enjoy.

New York is a fast-paced city that can never bore the people who visit it. It contains fascinating museums and historical sights, which tourists can explore, as well as many restaurants, concerts, and plays, which they can enjoy.

- Although Joe had not been fishing in a number of years, he surprised himself by catching a very large swordfish, which, when it was measured, set a local record, which was mentioned in the newspapers.

- Some of today's television stars seem to worry more about contracts than they do about providing entertainment, which, as a result, leaves the audience wondering which star will disappear next from their favorite shows.

- My last trip to Africa included my first safari, which was very exciting and which began at sunrise and lasted until the late afternoon when we all sat together and recounted the adventures that we had enjoyed in the bush country.
