





3. The driver lost the map. The driver found the house anyway.
  - a. and
  - b. but
  - c. or
4. The cowboys rounded up the cows. The cowboys put the cows in the corral.
  - a. and
  - b. but
  - c. or
5. The carpenter built a chair. The carpenter built a footstool.
  - a. and
  - b. but
  - c. or

### ► Overuse of Conjunctions

Conjunctions help us to combine sentences, but they can be overused, creating sentences that are too long.

#### *Example*

The drawbridge is raised, and the knights all take their positions along the battlement, and the king returns to the map room.

#### *Edited Example*

Raising the drawbridge, the knights all take their positions along the battlement while the king returns to the map room.

Another simple conjunction, *so*, is sometimes incorrectly used to begin sentences.

#### *Example*

So, the author used the literary technique of personification in her poem.

#### *Edited Example*

The author used the literary technique of personification in her poem.

*So* can be used to combine sentences, but it often sounds informal. You should be careful about using it too much in academic or formal writing. Generally, the proper way to use *so* is to combine it with *and* or *that* to form the phrases *and so* and *so that*.

#### *Example*

Rebecca wanted to improve her Spanish, so she moved to Mexico.

#### *Edited Examples*

Rebecca moved to Mexico because she wanted to improve her Spanish.

Rebecca wanted to improve her Spanish, and so she moved to Mexico.

### ► Dividing Sentences

Long sentences connected by conjunctions can be revised by dividing them into two sentences. Remember, the goal is to use a variety of sentence lengths to give your writing an interesting rhythm and flow.

#### *Example*

I am a big tennis fan, and so I like to watch the matches on T.V. and sometimes I have a chance to see good tennis live and I try to get the best seats.

#### *Edited Example*

As a big tennis fan, I like to watch matches on T.V. When I have the chance to see good tennis live, I try to get the best seats.

### Exercise 3

Revise the following sentences by using phrases and clauses to eliminate unnecessary conjunctions.





## ► Single-Word Modifiers

Single-word modifiers used at the beginning of a sentence can help with variety and emphasis.

### *Example*

Quite a few students have been taking performing arts classes recently.

### *Edited Example*

Recently, quite a few students have been taking performing arts classes.

## ► Phrase Modifiers

Phrases can modify sentences and come at the beginning in place of the subject of the sentence for emphasis and variety.

### *Example*

Joe lived in Chicago when he received his Master's degree and decided to become a teacher.

### *Edited Example*

Living in Chicago, Joe received his Master's degree and decided to become a teacher.

In the above example, a *participial phrase*, as discussed in Lesson 3, begins the sentence.

### *Example*

Wendy Nguyen wrote three different essays to win the prize.

### *Edited Example*

To win the prize, Wendy Nguyen wrote three different essays.

In the above example, an *infinitive phrase* begins the sentence to offer variety.

### *Example*

The shadows can frighten you in the woods.

### *Edited Example*

In the woods, the shadows can frighten you.

In the above example, a *prepositional phrase* begins the sentence.

## ► Adverbial Phrases

An adverbial phrase is a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

*Examples of an adverbial phrase modifying a verb*  
Shara sings *in the shower*.

The prepositional phrase tells *where* she sings, so it is acting as an adverb.

Tom paints *with a fine brush*.

The prepositional phrase tells *how* he paints, so it is acting as an adverb.

Any time a prepositional phrase answers the questions *how, when, where, to what extent, and why*, it is an adverbial phrase.

*Example of an adverbial phrase modifying an adjective*

He is respectful *to his elders*.

The phrase *to his elders* modifies the adjective *respectful*.

*Example of an adverbial phrase modifying an adverb*

The ship listed far *to the starboard*.

The phrase *to the starboard* modifies the adverb *far*.

To offer variety, adverbial phrases can begin sentences.

### *Example*

*Before a race*, Liam stretches.







