

Minilesson

Elaborating Ideas with Compound Sentences



Elaboration can turn a good sentence into a great one. When you elaborate, you put more meat on the bones of your sentence by adding details.

You can elaborate sentences in many ways, including [asking and answering adverb questions \(/minilesson/elaborating-sentences\)](#). Another way is to create a compound sentence.

Better sleep leads to better learning.

This is a nice sentence, but what else should readers know?

*Better sleep leads to better learning, **so** some schools are starting later in the day.*

Notice that a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*so*) connect the new clause to the original sentence. The connecting word *so* signals an effect. Different coordinating conjunctions signal other connections.

*Better sleep leads to better learning, **but** many young people struggle to get enough sleep.*


But signals a contrast, moving the sentence in a new direction. (The connecting word *yet* serves a similar purpose.)

*Better sleep leads to better learning, **for** sleep is proven to boost concentration and retention.*

For signals that the next idea is the reason for the previous one.

*Better sleep leads to better learning, **and** it improves social and emotional well-being.*

And adds a detail of equal value.

 **Your Turn** Practice elaborating by finishing these sentence starters. When you finish, compare your compound sentences with a classmate's.

1. Astronauts explore space, so
2. Astronauts explore space, but
3. Astronauts explore space, and

4. Some schools use digital textbooks, and
5. Some schools use digital textbooks, yet
6. Some schools use digital textbooks, so

7. The animal shelter is overcrowded, so
8. The animal shelter is overcrowded, for
9. The animal shelter is overcrowded, but