Commas joining simple sentences

A comma, together with a conjunction, can be used to join together two or more simple sentences to make your writing more interesting.

Example 1:

My friend invited me to the party. I do not want to go.

My friend invited me to the party, but I do not want to go.

Dad wouldn't let me go to the party. I threw a huge tantrum.

Dad wouldn't let me go to the party, so I threw a huge tantrum.

Example 2:

We all know that it is important to exercise for at least 30 minutes each day. So many of us are lucky if we do 30 minutes of exercise in one week.

We all know that it is important to exercise for at least 30 minutes each day, although many of us are lucky if we do 30 minutes of exercise in one week.

Natural honey is great on toast for breakfast. It is also known for its fantastic healing properties on wounds and ulcers.

Natural honey is great on toast for breakfast, yet it is also known for its fantastic healing properties on wounds and ulcers.

30 MINUTES
A DAY
no excuses!

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A common way to combine two simple sentences into one is to use a comma and a conjunction. A conjunction is a joining word which can be used to join words, clauses and simple sentences.

1. Underline each simple sentence.
   
   (a) The sun melted the snow, then in one hour it had totally disappeared.
   
   (b) We went swimming on Sunday, while Mum went shopping.
   
   (c) I mowed the lawn, so Jayden trimmed the edges.
   
   (d) Our team bowler was injured, but we still won the game.

2. Use a comma together with a conjunction (although, yet, so, but, or) to join two sentences.

   (a) My sister just had a baby. My parents are thrilled.

   (b) Our family enjoyed the show. The reception afterwards was disappointing.

   (c) My father loves to eat lobster. He doesn't like prawns.

3. Use a comma together with your own conjunction to join the two sentences.

   (a) Jackie and I disagree about most things. We are still best friends.

   (b) Their family was terrified by the storm. They hid in the basement.

   (c) His brother plays football. He also plays cricket.