

Stage 2 Writing Tips for Parents



Compound sentences



Syllabus Links

EN2-9B: A student uses effective and accurate sentence structure, grammatical features, punctuation conventions and vocabulary relevant to the type of text when responding to and composing texts.

Content: identify and use grammatical features, eg conjunctions, to accurately link ideas and information

What are conjunctions?

Conjunctions (such as **and, but, or, so**) are used to link two independent clauses (or simple sentences) of equal importance. A deep understanding of the specific meaning of each conjunction will allow your child to construct meaningful sentences.

- **and** is used to join or add independent clauses. *They ate **and** (they) drank.*
- **but** is used to show opposite or conflicting ideas. *She is small **but** strong.*
- **or** is used to show choice or possibilities. *He will be here on Monday **or** Tuesday.*
- **so** is used to show cause and result. *I was tired **so** I went to sleep.*

Activities at Home

Here are some activities to help your child to make meaningful compound sentences.

Sentence Beginnings

Think of a simple sentence. Ask your child to create the *second part* of the compound sentence using each of these conjunctions: **and, but, or, so**. Eg:

- (Parent) Dogs bark (child) *and* wag their tails.
(Parent) Dogs bark (child) *but* cats meow.
(Parent) Dogs bark (child) *or* whine.
(Parent) Dogs bark (child) *so* they get attention.

Silly Sentences

Both you and your child think of a simple sentence at the same time. Then ask your child to link the two sentences with **and, but, or, so**.

- Parent: I love you. Child: I like slime.
I love you *and* I like slime.
I like slime *but* I love you.
I like slime *so* I love you!

Sentence Endings

Think of the second part of a compound sentence beginning with **and, but, or, so**. Ask your child to create the *first part* of the sentence. Eg:

- (Parent) – *and* I can sing. (Child) I can dance...
(Parent) – *but* I can sing. (Child) You can dance...
(Parent) – *or* I can sing. (Child) You can sing...
(Parent) – *so* I can sing. (Child) Put on the music...

Topic/picture talk

Choose a topic or select an image. Challenge your child to create as many compound sentences as they can on that topic. Other family members may like to contribute too. Which family member can combine two ideas on the topic using **and, but, or, so** in the most clever/most amusing way?