

Combining sentences with and or butAnd

Use and to combine two sentences if you want to add information. It's common, but not necessary, to use a comma before and.

My cousin loves rock music, and she's a great dancer.

But

Use but to combine two sentences if you want to show a difference or contrast. It's common, but not necessary, to use a comma before but.

My stepfather loves classical music, but I love rock.

My niece loves Latin music, but my nephew doesn't.

Be careful! In traditional formal writing, writers avoid beginning sentences with And or But.

Don't write: My cousin loves rock music. And she's a great dancer.

Don't write: My cousin loves rock music. But I don't.

A On a separate sheet of paper, combine the sentences, using and.

1 My sister-in-law has long hair. She's very pretty.

2 My aunt is a computer programmer. Her husband is a teacher.

3 We look alike. We wear the same kind of clothes.

4 My cousin likes classical music. He loves Italian food.

5 We look very different. We like different music.

B On a separate sheet of paper, combine the sentences, using but.

1 My brother wears old clothes. I wear new clothes.

2 My sister has long hair. I have short hair.

3 My cousin lives near the airport. His parents don't.

4 I love rock music. My stepfather doesn't.

5 We look alike. We wear very different clothes.

C **Guidance for the Writing Exercise (on page 36)** Use the ideas to help you write the six statements comparing two people in your family. Use and or but to combine sentences.

Ideas

- appearance
- musical tastes
- food preferences
- clothing preferences
- birthplaces and hometowns
- marital status
- favorite colors