

Comma Rule #2

The Comma in a Compound Sentence

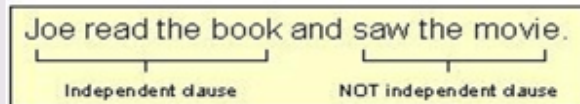
- Coordinating conjunctions are **AND, BUT, OR, NOR, FOR, SO, or YET**. Otherwise known as **FANBOYS**
- Use a comma **before** a coordinating conjunction to **join** two **independent** clauses in a compound sentence.
- What is a compound sentence?
 - A **compound sentence** has **two** independent clauses.
 - An independent clause is a group of words with a **subject** and a **verb** that expresses a complete thought.
 - It can also be known as a **simple** sentence.
 - An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence



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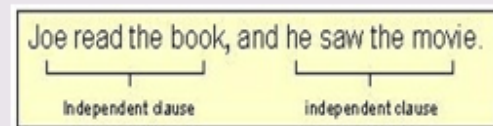
The Comma in a Compound Sentence

- A compound sentence must have two independent. Clauses
- Look at this example:



- In the above example, two **verb** groups are joined by **and**. The second verb group does **NOT** have a subject; thus, it is **NOT** an independent clause.
- Therefore, **NO** comma belongs before **and**.
- This example is a **simple** sentence with a **compound verb**, not a compound sentence.

However, you can make this sentence into a compound sentence by simply making the last verb part into an independent clause.



Rule #2 The Comma in a Compound Sentence

Simple Sentence

Marion read the paper but didn't agree with its thesis.

Independent Clause NOT Independent Clause

Compound Sentence

Marion read the paper, but she didn't agree with its thesis.

Independent Clause Independent Clause

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Rule #2 The Comma in a Compound Sentence

Simple Sentence

The army and the marines were summoned.

two noun subjects joined by **and**

Compound Sentence

The army was summoned, and the marines were put on alert.

Independent Clause Independent Clause

comma

Rule #2 The Comma in a Compound Sentence

Simple Sentence

The army and the marines were summoned.
two noun subjects joined by **and**

Compound Sentence

The army was summoned, and the marines were put on alert.
Independent Clause comma Independent Clause

Rule #2 The Comma in a Compound Sentence

Simple Sentence

Joe changed his classes or his work hours.
Independent Clause two noun phrases joined by OR

Compound Sentence

Joe changed his classes, or he adjusted his work schedule.
Independent Clause comma Independent Clause