Combining sentences

Edit a repair-club report

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review Keep the original meaning. Choose a connector that fits the relationship. Do not join two complete sentences with only a comma.

Example The hall was quiet. The gym was noisy. Combine: The hall was quiet, but the gym was noisy. But shows a contrast.

Revise a fictional repair-club draft for the club newsletter. Diagnose the joining errors and repetition rather than adding new events. Other correct revisions that preserve the information are valid.

A rough repair report

[1] Ravi set a skate on the bench, Jo held it steady. Ravi checked a wheel. Ravi checked the laces. The first tool did not fit. For that reason, Ravi chose another tool. The repair took time. The pair still finished before lunch.

1. Find the joining error in the first sentence and repair it with a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

2. Reduce repetition in the two sentences beginning 'Ravi checked.' Use one subject and keep both things he checked.

3. Replace the tool notes with one sentence using 'because.' Keep the stated cause and result in the right order.

4. Combine the last two sentences to emphasize that the pair finished despite the time the repair took.

5. An editor suggests 'Ravi set the skate on the bench and held it steady.' Why does this change the draft's meaning?

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Responses and feedback: Edit a repair-club report

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

1. The first sentence is a comma splice. Repair: Ravi set a skate on the bench, and Jo held it steady.

Reasoning: 'Ravi set a skate on the bench' and 'Jo held it steady' are independent clauses. 'And' after the comma provides the missing connection.

2. Ravi checked a wheel and the laces.

Reasoning: The same subject and verb apply to two objects, so 'a wheel and the laces' can share 'Ravi checked.' Neither check disappears.

3. Ravi chose another tool because the first tool did not fit.

Reasoning: The lack of fit caused the new choice, not the reverse. This order places the complete main clause before its dependent reason.

4. The repair took time, but the pair still finished before lunch.

Reasoning: 'But' expresses the supplied contrast. The independent clauses need the comma plus the conjunction, not a comma alone.

5. It makes Ravi do both actions, but the draft says Jo held the skate steady.

Reasoning: When verbs share one subject, that subject performs both actions. Keep Jo's subject if you combine these events so that the revision does not switch the actor.