

Connecting words

Connecting words join two simple sentences. Two connecting words we use very often are *and* and *but*.

We use *and* if we want to add more information to the first sentence.

The connecting word *and* joins the two simple sentences.

Example: Vusi scored a goal and he helped to win the game.

Simple sentence

Simple sentence

We use *but* to show a difference between two sentences.

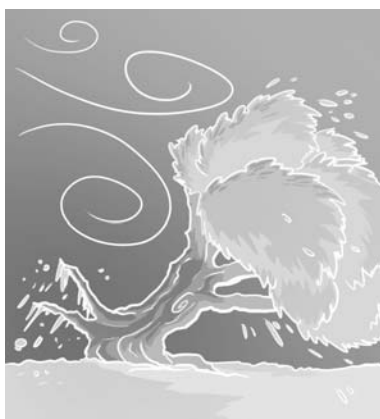
The connecting word *but* joins the two simple sentences.

Example: Jane worked hard but she did not finish her work.

Simple sentence

Simple sentence

1. Circle the connecting word in each sentence.



- a) The wind blew strongly and the tree fell down.
- b) The box is heavy but he will carry it up the stairs.
- c) The book is thick and it has many pages.
- d) I have a blue skirt but I want a red dress.
- e) Theo is in his room and he is reading.
- f) Jane cleaned the kitchen but she forgot to sweep.

2. Underline the correct connecting word in brackets to complete each sentence.

- a) Mrs Theron left the house (and/but) she waved to her children.
- b) The film was sad (and/but) I cried at the end.
- c) It is cold (and/but) she is wearing sandals.
- d) Their house is large (and/but) the garden is small.
- e) I am sitting at my desk (and/but) I am doing my homework.
- f) My father is sick (and/but) he is going to work.

More about connecting words

Two **connecting words** that we use often are *and* and *but*. We can also use the connecting words *because* and *after* to join two simple sentences.

We use *because* if we want to give a reason in the second sentence for something that happened in the first sentence.

Example: Lester won the competition because he practised hard.

We use *after* if we want to explain the order of things that happened in the two sentences.

Example: Mrs Singh cleaned the kitchen after she made supper.

1. Circle the correct connecting word in each sentence.
 - a) I am making some toast (after/because) I am hungry.
 - b) She will go to bed (after/because) she has a bath.
 - c) Loyiso drank coffee (after/because) he ate lunch.
 - d) We like this car (after/because) it is fast.
 - e) Mother is happy today (after/because) the sun is shining.
 - f) Maria will eat the cake (after/because) she has had supper.

2. Write the correct connecting word in brackets to complete each sentence.
 - a) We brushed our teeth _____ we ate supper.
(after/because)
 - b) Neil lay on his bed _____ he was tired. (after/because)
 - c) Zintle's mother baked cupcakes _____ it was Zintle's birthday. (after/because)
 - d) Mike will visit his friend _____ the soccer match was cancelled. (after/because)
 - e) We switched on the lights _____ the sun went down.
(after/because)
 - f) Mr Xolo washes his car _____ it is dirty. (after/because)