**Compound and Complex Sentences: The Grand Wedding**

Here's how you can “wed” your simple sentences together - and improve your writing style!

**Simple Sentences – a subject and verb in 1 complete thought!**

- Joe waited for his bride.
  - “Joe” = subject, “waited” = verb
- The altar was empty.
  - “The altar” = subject, “was” = verb
- Elizabeth ran down the street.
  - “Elizabeth” = subject, “ran” = verb
- Her wedding dress billowed in the wind.
  - “Her wedding dress” = subject, “billowed” = verb

**Compound Sentences – 2 simple sentences joined together**

Compound sentences are made up of 2 independent clauses (or simple sentences) that are combined with a coordinating conjunction. Each clause is complete on its own.

- The room was completely empty, **and** the bouquet sat on the bare desk.
- Joe took off his tie, **for** he had begun to sweat profusely.
- Elizabeth hung her dress in the hotel closet, **and** she called her parents.
- The wedding planners asked for their money, **but** Joe ignored them and walked away.

Remember the seven coordinating conjunctions with the acronym FANBOYS:

- For
- And
- Nor
- But
- Or
- Yet
- So

These conjunctions will always be preceded by a comma.

**Complex Sentences – 2 sentences that support each other**

Complex sentences are made up of one independent clause and one dependent clause. Dependent clauses are not complete sentences and begin with subordinating conjunctions – although, because, unless, while, etc. Complex sentences show the relationship between the 2 original clauses.

If the joined sentence begins with the dependent clause or it is inserted in the middle of the joined sentence, set it off with a comma. Otherwise, no comma!

- Elizabeth was going to leave **until she realized** that Joe was waiting for her in the lobby.
- **Before he walked** up to her, Joe inhaled and exhaled slowly.
- Joe told Elizabeth that, **although they were having** a rough time, he wanted to start their relationship over and take things slowly.
- **Because she missed** him and wanted to stop running, Elizabeth agreed.

— Created by Katy Pleake, 2/17 —