

Standards Focus—Sentence Combining

Chapters 1-3

When a writer creates his story, he uses a combination of different sentence styles to hold the reader's attention. A good variety in sentence construction makes for much more interesting reading. Compare the three types of sentences below:

Simple—*I don't know which way's best. I'll find out some day.* (Two sentences; not long or really very interesting; tell the story, but do not add much flavor to the writing.)

Compound—*I don't know which way's best, but I'll find out some day.* (The same two sentences combined into one sentence. **Use "but" or "and" to combine the two sentences.**)

Complex—*Because I haven't walked in his shoes, I don't know which way's best, but I'll find out some day.* (The same two sentences are added together, but include a *subordinate clause* to try to create a clearer, more interesting picture of what the author is trying to say.

- The **main clause** includes a clause that *can stand alone.* (*I don't know which way's best.*)
- A **subordinate clause** is a clause that *cannot stand on its own*, because it doesn't make sense without more information. (*Because I haven't walked in his shoes...*) **Subordinate clauses often begin with words like *because, although, after, if, when, as, and since.***

Part One

The following is an excerpt taken from *The Outsiders*. *Directions: Read the excerpt looking for simple, compound, and complex sentences. Circle the simple sentences. Underline the compound sentences. Double-underline the complex sentences.*

It was almost four months ago. I had walked down to the DX station to get a bottle of pop and to see Steve and Soda, because they'll always buy me a couple of bottles and let me help work on the cars. I don't like to go on weekends because then there is usually a bunch of girls down there flirting with Soda—all kinds of girls, Socs too. I don't care too much for girls yet. Soda says I'll grow out of it. He did.

It was a warmish spring day with the sun shining bright, but it was getting chilly and dark by the time we started for home. We were walking because we had left Steve's car at the station. At the corner of our block there's a wide, open field where we play football and hang out, and it's often a site for rumbles and fist fights. We were passing it, kicking rocks down the street and finishing our last bottle of Pepsi, when Steve noticed something lying on the ground. He picked it up. It was Johnny's blue-jeans jacket—the only jacket he had.



Part Two

*Directions: Rewrite the following simple sentences, changing them into **compound** sentences. You may add some of your own words, but you should keep the same general meaning.*

1. I went on walking home. I was thinking about the movie. I suddenly wished I had some company. _____

2. We're poorer than the Socs and the middle class. I reckon we're wilder, too. _____

3. The girl looked at me. I was half-scared of her. I'm half-scared of all nice girls, especially Socs. _____

4. I thought of those hard, pale eyes. Soda was wrong for once, I thought. _____

5. The Mustang passed us slowly and went right on by. Marcia sighed in relief. _____

*Directions: Now add a touch of flair to your sentences. Adding the word given in parentheses, create **complex** sentences from these simple and compound sentences. You may add words or make minor changes to the wording, but try to keep the meaning.*

6. I wondered how he could stand being so handsome. (after) _____

7. He liked to show that he didn't care whether there was a law or not. He went around trying to break laws. (since) _____

8. Dally started talking, loud enough for the two girls to hear. He started out loud and got worse. (as) _____

9. Me and Darry just didn't dig each other. I never could please him. (because) _____

Comprehension Check

Chapters 1-3

1. What happened to Darry and Ponyboy's parents? _____

2. How does Ponyboy feel when he is being followed? Why? What are the signs he exhibits that tell you this is how he feels? _____

3. Why does Ponyboy go to the movies alone? _____

4. Where do Steve and Soda work? _____
5. How did Two-Bit get his nickname? What is his real name? _____

6. How do Ponyboy, Soda and Darry feel about each other? _____

7. Why does Dally use vulgar and abrasive language with the girls at the movies? _____

8. How do the girls respond to the insults? _____

9. Why is Ponyboy uncomfortable about it? _____

10. Why are the girls alone and without a car? _____

11. What rule do the Greasers follow, besides "stick together"? _____

12. Describe the attack on Johnny. _____

13. What does Cherry tell Ponyboy about the Socs? _____

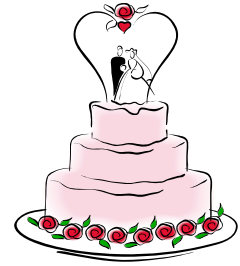
14. Why doesn't Darry call the police when Ponyboy gets home late? _____

15. Why do Ponyboy and Johnny run away? _____

16. Why is Darry such an angry person? _____

Assessment Preparation: Sentence Completion Chapters 1-3

Directions: Choosing from the vocabulary words below, insert the correct words on the lines. Each word will be used only once, so be sure to read all the sentences before writing your answers.



bawl	disgrace	muttered	reckless	unfathomable
incredulous	roguishly	scatterbrained	scowled	wincing
aloofness	cunning	gallantly	ornery	quivering

- The wedding planner's _____ about the quality of the food and service at the reception was a _____.
- The bride was so upset about her "special day" that she began to _____ and was _____ with every sob.
- The crowd was _____ as the cranky woman in charge of the affair _____ under her breath and _____ at the guests.
- When the wedding guests saw the skimpy portions that were being served for dinner, they _____ at the _____ tackiness of the meal.
- The tables had been decorated in a _____ manner, with ten people seated at a table meant for eight, flowers that were wilted, and even dirty dishes here and there.
- She _____ took pleasure in embarrassing the bride and groom by making the guests wait outside the reception hall for over an hour.
- The best man and the matron of honor _____ offered to talk to the manager about the nasty attitude of the wedding planner.
- With _____ and great skill, the DJ managed to entertain the guests and conceal many of the problems created by the _____ wedding planner.
- Afterwards, everyone agreed that the _____ woman had ruined the entire wedding reception and should be dismissed from her job for incompetence.

Standards Focus—Sentence Combining Review

Chapters 4-6

When a writer creates his story, he uses a combination of different sentence styles to hold the reader's attention. A good variety in sentence construction makes for much more interesting reading. Compare the three types of sentences below:

Simple—*I don't know which way's best. I'll find out some day.* (Two sentences give information.)

Compound—*I don't know which way's the best, but I'll find out some day.* (The same two sentences combined into one sentence. **Use "but" or "and" to combine the two sentences.**)

Complex—*Because I haven't walked in his shoes, I don't know which way's best, but I'll find out some day.* (The same two sentences are added together, but include a *subordinate clause* to try to create a clearer, more interesting picture of what the author is trying to say.

- The **main clause** includes a clause that *can stand alone.* (*I don't know which way's best.*)
- A **subordinate clause** is a clause that *cannot stand on its own*, because it doesn't make sense without more information. (*Because I haven't walked in his shoes...*) **Subordinate clauses often begin with words like *because, although, after, if, when, as, and since.***)

*Directions: Underline the words that indicate that the following are **compound** sentences. Then separate the sentences into two or more sentences to show that you understand where the compound sentences came from.*

1. He still reminded me of a lost puppy who had been kicked too often, but for the first time I saw him as a stranger might see him.
2. I started to say something to him, but I went to sleep before I could get the words out of my mouth.
3. We ran and pulled ourselves into an open boxcar.

*Directions: Rewrite the following simple sentences, changing them into **compound** sentences. You may add some of your own words, but you should keep the same general meaning.*

1. We climbed in a back window. It was a small church, real old and spooky and spiderwebby. It gave me the creeps. _____

2. I woke up late in the afternoon. For a second I didn't know where I was. _____

3. I looked at Johnny. He didn't look like any farm boy to me. _____

4. I looked at Johnny imploringly. Johnny sighed. _____

Directions: **Underline** the words that indicate that the following are **complex** sentences.

1. I guess that's why Dallas could handle him so easily, although Buck was in his mid-twenties and Dally was seventeen.
2. He didn't bat an eye when Johnny told him what had happened, only grinned and said "Good for you" when Johnny told how he had knifed the Soc.
3. I was hardly awake when Johnny and I leaped off the train into a meadow.
4. I climbed over the barb-wire fence without saying anything else.
5. And they can't take anything away from them because they don't have anything in the first place.
6. If they win, things go on as usual.

Directions: Now using the word given in parentheses, create **complex** sentences from these simple and compound sentences. You may make minor changes to the wording, but keep the meaning.

7. "I'm gonna cut mine, too, and wash the grease out, but I can't bleach it. I'm too dark-skinned to look okay blond." (since) _____

8. I'd never combed it to the side like that. It just didn't look like me. (because) _____

9. He was crying. I held him like Soda had held him the day we found him lying in the lot. (as) _____

10. I was dying for a Pepsi. I'm what you might call a Pepsi addict. (if) _____

11. I rolled over and sat up, rubbing the sleep out of my eyes and yawning. Suddenly I blinked. (when) _____

12. Johnny didn't say anything. But he stared at the dashboard with such hurt bewilderment that I could have bawled. (although) _____

Comprehension Check

Chapters 4-6

1. What happens to Ponyboy at the park? _____

2. Why does Johnny go after Bob? What is the result? _____

3. Why does Johnny react so violently? _____

4. To whom do Ponyboy and Johnny go for help? What does he give them? What does he tell them to do? _____

5. What do the boys do to disguise themselves? _____

6. Why does Ponyboy get sick on the fifth day at the church? _____

7. What does Dally bring to Ponyboy from Sodapop? _____

8. What does Dally tell Johnny about his parents? How does Johnny react? _____

9. Where do the three boys go in Dally's car and what do they do there? _____

10. What do they find when they return? What do they do? _____

11. What happens to Ponyboy and Johnny? _____

12. How does Darry react when he sees Ponyboy? _____

13. Describe the change between Ponyboy and Darry. _____

Comprehension Check
Chapters 7-9

1. What is Soda doing while the police are interviewing Ponyboy? _____

2. What is the extent of Johnny's injuries? _____

3. What does Ponyboy mean when by, "If? Please, no, I thought. Please not 'if'." _____

4. Why do the Curtis boys always leave their door unlocked? _____

5. What does the newspaper say about the "heroes"? _____

6. What has happened to Soda's girlfriend? Why? _____

7. Briefly describe the conversation between Randy and Ponyboy. _____

8. What do you think the doctor means when he says to the nurse, "Let them go in. He's been asking for them. It can't hurt now."? _____

9. When the nurse announces to Johnny that his mother is there to see him, how does he react? _____

10. When Two-Bit and Ponyboy see Johnny's mother, what happens? How do they react? _____

11. When Dally asks Two-Bit about his “fancy black-handled switch”, what do you think was his reason for asking? Why do you think he hands it over to him “without hesitation”? _____

12. Cherry tells Ponyboy about the kind of person Bob “really” was. How does she describe him?

13. What are the rules for the rumble? _____

14. How do the boys show their excitement about the rumble when they are at the Curtis house getting ready to head out? _____

15. Pony thinks the only good reason to fight is _____

16. Why did people usually think that any rumble was the fault of the greasers and not the Socs? _____

17. Who actually starts the rumble? Who is his opponent? What is significant about this?

18. What were Johnny’s last words to Ponyboy? What do you think he meant? _____



Standards Focus: Character Types—Chapters 10-12

As authors develop their characters through the use of characterization, several character types emerge:

- The **protagonist** of a story is the main character that changes throughout the story.
- The **antagonist** is the main character in opposition to the protagonist; the antagonist usually causes the protagonist's problems. The antagonist can also be a force of nature.
- **Round** characters are complicated and fully developed.
- **Flat** characters are simple and uninteresting.
- **Dynamic** characters are those that grow or change emotionally or learn a lesson.
- **Static** characters never change or grow in the story.

Part A—Directions: For the following characters, label each as protagonist or antagonist (or neither); round or flat; and dynamic or static. Be sure to give each character three labels. Briefly justify your answers. An example has been done for you.

EX. Ponyboy: Protagonist-Tries to do the right thing, tries to stay out of trouble, basically a good person. Round-we know him well, even what he thinks and feels. Dynamic-goes through a series of changes and events, each of which brings on its own challenges.

1. Sodapop: _____

2. Darry: _____

3. Two-Bit: _____

4. Cherry: _____

5. Marcia: _____

6. Johnny: _____

7. Bob: _____

8. Randy: _____

Comprehension Check

Chapters 10-12

1. When Dally phones, what is his message? _____

2. When Dally says that his "heater sure does help a bluff..." what does he mean? _____

3. According to Ponyboy, Johnny died gallant. What is different about the death of Dally? _____

4. Why do you think Ponyboy becomes so sick? _____

5. Why does Ponyboy worry about whether he had asked for Darry in the hospital? _____

6. After Ponyboy studies the picture of Bob in the yearbook, what conclusions does he make about him? _____

7. Why do you think Ponyboy insists that he is the one who killed Bob and keeps saying that Johnny isn't dead? _____

8. Why do you think the judge's line of questioning is so easy on Ponyboy? Why is he acquitted? _____

9. What happens to Ponyboy's schoolwork, memory, and attitude about himself *after* the hearing? _____

10. What does Ponyboy finally decide to write about in his theme? _____

Answer Key *Outsiders* Additional Pages**Pg. 10A Standards Focus—Sentence Combining—Chapters 1-3—Part One**

It was almost four months ago. I had walked down to the DX station to get a bottle of pop and to see Steve and Soda, because they'll always buy me a couple of bottles and let me help work on the cars. I don't like to go on weekends because then there is usually a bunch of girls down there flirting with Soda—all kinds of girls, Socs too. I don't care too much for girls yet. Soda says I'll grow out of it. He did.

It was a warmish spring day with the sun shining bright, but it was getting chilly and dark by the time we started for home. We were walking because we had left Steve's car at the station. At the corner of our block there's a wide, open field where we play football and hang out, and it's often a site for rumbles and fist fights. We were passing it, kicking rocks down the street and finishing our last bottle of Pepsi, when Steve noticed something lying on the ground. He picked it up. It was Johnny's blue-jeans jacket—the only jacket he had.

Pg. 10B Sentence Combining—Chapters 1-3—Part Two

Answers will vary.

Pg. 10C Comprehension Check—Chapters 1-3

1. They were killed in an automobile accident eight months earlier.
2. really scared because the red Corvair is following him with 5 Socs in it; starts walking faster, thinks about Johnny having been jumped in the past, sweats fiercely, clammy palms
3. He likes to watch movies undisturbed so he can get into them and live them with the actors. He feels it's like having someone read over your shoulder when someone goes with you to the movies. Besides no one in his crowd likes books and movies the way he does.
4. at the DX gas station
5. He is a wisecracker who always has to get in his two-bits; Keith
6. **Ponyboy** loves Soda more than anyone in the world—idolizes him; Pony isn't really close to Darry, but looks up to him and respects him, somewhat out of fear. **Sodapop** is not afraid of Darry—even teases him and tells him what to do. He doesn't think of Ponyboy as a kid and likes to hang around him. **Darry** is rough on Pony; treats him like a parent would, and never sees anything he does as good enough. He is much easier on Soda, overlooking his mistakes and bad choices.
7. *Answers will vary.* Possible answers: trying to make an impression on them; just a mean-type person; feels inferior so is trying to bolster himself; doesn't know of any other way to talk to girls when he doesn't know them and wants to; habit.
8. They stand up to him and tell him to stop, trying to be at least polite at first; Cherry throws her Coke in his face to "cool him off."
9. He doesn't treat people like that, even though he is a greaser and the girls are Socs. That's not his kind of kicks.
10. They came to the movies with their boyfriends, but walked out on them when they found out the boys had booze. The boys got angry and left.
11. "Don't get caught."
12. Mustang pulled up beside the lot, four Socs got out, one with a lot of rings had cut up his face. They had scared and threatened him. Johnny's face was cut up, bruised and swollen, and he had a gash from his temple to his cheekbone. He never walked alone again and now carries a 6-inch blade.

13. Greasers have a different set of values and are emotional while Socs are sophisticated. Socs will say they like things they really don't like just to be cool. Socs are always going and going; can't be satisfied; don't let their real selves show through. They feel "too violently."
14. He doesn't want trouble. If there is trouble, Ponyboy, Soda, and Darry might be broken up and Soda and Pony "thrown in a boys' home so quick it'd make your head spin."
15. Darry slapped Ponyboy and nobody had ever done that before.
16. He has had to take on too much responsibility for a person his age since his parents were killed. He resents having to take on the role of parent to his brothers.

Pg. 10D Assessment Preparation—Sentence Completion—Chapters 1-3

1. aloofness, disgrace
2. bawl, quivering
3. incredulous, muttered, scowled
4. winced, unfathomable
5. reckless
6. roguishly
7. gallantly
8. cunning, ornery (or scatterbrained)
9. scatterbrained (or ornery)

Pg. 13A Standards Focus—Sentence Combining Review—Chapters 4-6

1. but
 2. but
 3. and
- 1-4 *Answers will vary.*

Pg. 13B Standards Focus—Sentence Combining Review—Chapters 4-6

1. although
 2. when
 3. when
 4. without
 5. because
 6. if
- 7-12 *Answers will vary.*

Pg. 14A Comprehension Check—Chapters 4-6

1. Five drunken Socs in a Mustang come into Greaser territory looking for the guys who "picked up our girls." A Soc named David shoves Pony's head into the fountain, nearly drowning him.
2. Johnny goes after Bob because he is the one who beat him up before, and because they had a blade and were going to go after him like they did before. Johnny stabs and kills him.
3. He is afraid for his life; they have tried it before and are out to get him.
4. They go to Dally for help; he gives them a gun and some money and tells them to hop the freight to Windrixville and go to the old abandoned church at the top of Jay Mountain.
5. They cut their hair and bleach Pony's.
6. He smoked two packs of Camels and hadn't been eating right.
7. a letter

8. He tells him that his parents hadn't asked about him, but, "Shoot, my old man don't give a hang whether I'm in jail or dead in a car wreck or drunk in the gutter." Johnny is very hurt and bewildered.
9. They go to the Dairy Queen and gorge themselves.
10. The church is on fire and there are kids in there. They jump in through windows and rescue the ones inside.
11. They are taken to the hospital and hailed as heroes.
12. He cries; he says to Ponyboy, "Pony, where have you been all this time?" Pony realizes that he meant, "Pony, you've scared me to death. Please be careful, because I couldn't stand it if anything happened to you." Then he says, "Oh, Pony, I thought we'd lost you... like we lost Mom and Dad...."
13. Pony wonders how he could ever have thought him hard and unfeeling. Darry shows his tender side by his words and by stroking Pony's hair.

Pg. 18A-B Comprehension Check—Chapters 7-9

1. He is entertaining everyone at the police station, joking around, interviewing the nurses, mimicking the TV reporters and keeping them all in stitches.
2. Johnny is in critical condition with a broken back, severe shock, and third-degree burns.
3. The doctors had said that Johnny might not live. He didn't want to hear what would happen *if* he lived.
4. It is a stopping place for all their friends if they needed a place to sleep.
5. The headlines read, *Juvenile Delinquents Turn Heroes*. The whole page was covered with stories about them—the fight, the murder, the church burning, the Socs being drunk, and their pictures were even there. The article talked about how they risked their lives to save the kids. One of the Socs even said it was their fault about the murder and that the greasers only fought back in self-defense.
6. She has gone to live with her grandmother in Florida because she is pregnant.
7. *Answers will vary. Possible answers:* Randy tells Pony that he would have let the kids die in the fire. He tells him that he is not going to show at the rumble that night. He is sick of all this trouble between the Socs and the greasers, and that Bob was a good guy and a real person. He says that Bob was spoiled and his parents never told him "No." He tells Pony that even if the greasers beat the Socs at the rumble, they couldn't win—they would always be where they are: at the bottom. Pony learned that Randy, the Soc, is just a guy.
8. He means that Johnny is going to die, so they might as well let his friends in to see him. They can't hurt anything now.
9. He doesn't want to see her. He is angry at her and feels that all she would want anyway would be to tell him how much trouble he is causing her.
10. She gives them a look of hatred and begins to blame them for all the trouble. They yell back at her, saying, "No wonder he hates your guts." They almost get into a yelling match, but Ponyboy moves Two-Bit away from her and they leave.
11. *Answers will vary.* He may be planning to go to the rumble or to use it to threaten his way out of the hospital. He hands it over because he trusts him and he feels that if he needs a blade enough to ask for it, that is all he needs.
12. She says that he was Randy's best friend since grade school. He could be sweet and friendly sometimes. But when he got drunk he became mean. He had something special about him that made people follow him. He was a little better than the crowd.
13. No blades or chains; nothing but fists and the first to run lose.
14. They put on extra hair oil; they turn somersaults off the porch, walk on their hands, do cartwheels, all kinds of acrobatics; chant greaser... greaser... greaser... The excitement is contagious.

15. self-defense
16. The Socs are clean-cut and well-dressed. They always looked as though they could be going to the movies.
17. Darry steps forward and says, "I'll take on anyone." His former buddy, Paul, steps up to him, and when Darry becomes distracted, Paul throws the first punch. It is significant because they grew up together and used to be close friends.
18. "Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold...." He was referring to the poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost, the poem presented in Chapter Five. *Answers will vary.* He meant that he was a good kid and that he needed to be sure to do everything in his power to stay that way—don't let this lifestyle ruin you.

Pg. 19A-B Character Types—*Answers and explanations will vary.*

Part A

1. protagonist, round, static
2. antagonist, round, dynamic
3. protagonist, flat, static
4. neither, flat, static
5. neither, flat, static
6. protagonist, round, dynamic
7. antagonist, flat, static
8. neither, round, dynamic
9. protagonist, round, static
10. antagonist, flat, static
11. protagonist, flat, static

Part B—*Answers will vary.*

Pg. 22A Comprehension Check—Chapters 10-12

1. He calls to tell them that he has just robbed a grocery store and the cops are after him. They need to hide him, so meet him at the lot in a minute.
2. Having a gun makes people afraid and they believe you will use it even if you won't.
3. Dally dies a hoodlum in the eyes of the public, instead of a hero like Johnny.
4. He is exhausted, has a minor concussion and a fever, and has pushed himself too hard.
5. He doesn't want to hurt Darry. He hopes that his subconscious mind wants him, even if he isn't aware enough of what he is doing to ask for him purposely.
6. He realizes that he was a real person—a reckless, hot-tempered boy, cocky and scared stiff at the same time.
7. He is in denial about Johnny's death. He is trying to protect his honor.
8. The evidence points to the others and he is not under suspicion. He is not guilty.
9. He is so distracted, and so much has happened in his life that he can't concentrate on school, no matter how he feels about it. He becomes really absent-minded and runs into things, hardly eats, and basically gives up on life.
10. He decides to write about his life experiences over the past several months, and *The Outsiders* is the product.