

Language focus: Punctuation

When you join two complete sentences with *but*, you must always use a comma before *but*:

I didn't want to send her a gift. I sent her one anyway.

I didn't want to send her a gift, but I sent her one anyway.

When you join two complete sentences with *and* and the subjects of the sentences are both written, use a comma before *and*:

Shopping at the mall is expensive. Parking is hard to find.

Shopping at the mall is expensive, and parking is hard to find.

(*Shopping and parking* are both written.)

When you join two complete sentences and remove the subject of the second sentence, don't use a comma before *and*:

These days people mail paper cards. People e-mail electronic cards.

These days people mail paper cards and e-mail electronic cards.

These days people send paper and electronic cards.

(The subject *people* is not written a second time.)

10 Join these sentences with *and* or *but*. Use a comma if you need one. Then share your sentences with a partner. Did you make the same choices? Talk about any differences.

a. I got a camera for my birthday. I got clothes for Christmas.

I got a camera for my birthday, and I got clothes for Christmas.

I got a camera for my birthday and clothes for Christmas.

b. Ahmed speaks English very well. He enjoys his classes.

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c. Yoshi studies hard. He doesn't get good grades.

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d. In Asia, most people eat rice for breakfast. In Canada, most people have cereal.

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e. Morocco has lovely mountains. Morocco has beautiful beaches.

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f. Spanish is spoken in most of South America. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil.

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g. Gifts are difficult to choose. Gifts are fun to give.

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h. Noodles are easy to cook. Noodles are popular in many countries.

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