

Punctuation: Commas and Conjunctions (“and”)

When you write “and” in a sentence, you have to be careful: Do you need a comma?

Look at these sentences:

- I went to the theater. I watched a movie.

These are both complete sentences, so you can connect them with a comma (,) and “and”:

- I went to the theater, and I watched a movie.

But you can also write this a different way:

- I went to the theater and watched a movie.

You do not need a comma in this sentence, because “watched a movie” is not a complete sentence (it doesn’t have the subject “I”).

Examples (all of these sentences are correct!):

- John ate a sandwich, and he watched TV.
- John ate a sandwich and watched TV.
- Martha visited her daughter, and she had a good time.
- Martha visited her daughter and had a good time.

Write *two* sentences for each of the situations below. Write one sentence with a comma, and one sentence without a comma. The first one is done for you. (See page 76 for answers.)

1. Alex worked in a bank. He met many interesting people.

Alex worked in a bank, and he met many interesting people. _____

Alex worked in a bank and met many interesting people. _____

2. The criminal stole a motorcycle. He had to pay a \$1,000 fine.

3. Anna travelled to Spain. She came back with many interesting gifts for us.

4. Mickey lives with his parents. He helps them run their business.

5. My cousin loves sports. He hopes to become a gym coach.
