A simple sentence may be defined as a subject, a verb, and one complete idea. A subject names who (John) or what (traveling in Europe) the sentence is about. A verb expresses an action (swim, worry) or a state of being (is, become).

SUBJECT VERB (other elements in the predicate)
Jose swims with Joan every day.
Traveling in Europe is difficult during the summer.
Students worry about grades.
Global warming will become worse in the future.

Simple sentences like the ones above can be useful, and even powerful, but overuse of simple sentences leads to a choppy, repetitive style. To achieve greater sentence variety, students at the college level can combine simple sentences using the five methods listed below. See the reverse side for the key words that can link sentences together.

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Option 1: Simple Sentence + Comma + Key Word + Simple Sentence.
For this option, the key words (coordinating conjunctions) are and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet.

Example: John made a basket, and he is a good basketball player.

How would you combine the following sentences?

1. Henry’s shoes have bright orange laces.
   Sam’s shoes have brighter orange laces.

   ____________________________________________________________

2. It is your life.
   You are in command.

   ____________________________________________________________

3. Alison wrote to Scott often.
   She wrote to me less often.

   ____________________________________________________________

Scan the QR Code for helpful hints for numbers one through three and definitions of the coordinating conjunctions.