

# Crafting Effective Sentences



**Lesson 1: A Different Kind of Compound Construction**

# **Effective Sentences for Claims**

**#1: A Different Kind of Compound Construction**

# #1: A Different Kind of Compound Construction

**A compound sentence is typically used to join two ideas that are closely connected or intertwined with one another.**

**In this variation, we will use the compound construction to move from a general statement or claim to something more specific or explanatory.**

**We will create an emphasis within the sentence by using repetition.**

# #1: A Different Kind of Compound Construction

The pattern looks like this:

General statement (idea) : (repetition) specific statement (example).  
*(an independent clause)*      *(an independent or a dependent clause)*

Rather than a **colon** as my joining mark of punctuation, a **dash** could also be used.

# #1: A Different Kind of Compound Construction

Here are a couple of examples:

General statement (idea) : (repetition) specific statement (example).  
(an independent clause)                      (an independent or a dependent clause)

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*Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels suggests disappointment: a disappointment that comes from observing a race too blind to see its own faults.*

*To learn only about the differences we have without understanding our inner beings is to live with a void--a void that can easily be filled by the political or the commercial winds of the moment.*

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# #1: A Different Kind of Compound Construction

Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels suggests **disappointment**:  
a **disappointment** that comes from observing a race too  
blind to see its own faults.

To learn only about the differences we have without  
understanding our inner beings is to live with a **void**-  
**void** that can easily be filled by the political or the  
commercial winds of the moment.

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## Why It Is Effective

*In this pattern, the repetition of a or perhaps the key word from the main clause causes the reader to pay attention to it. It is a way of creating emphasis. That key word is a word important enough to be repeated, and that word or even a variation of it can then appear periodically throughout the rest of the essay to further draw attention back to that first claim sentence. It becomes an echo effect, making the claim memorable.*

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## Writer's Craft Note

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*Constructing effective sentences like this one and the ones to follow in this series normally take place in the revision process for students. Do not be discouraged if these types of sentences do not come naturally in a first draft. They often take practice and persistence--the kind of persistence that makes a strong writer.*