

# Revising a Paragraph by Combining Sentences

**DIRECTIONS** The following paragraph sounds choppy because it has too many short sentences.

- Use the methods you have learned in this section to combine some of the sentences.
- Make your changes on the worksheet.

A moon is a natural object. It orbits a planet. There are at least 61 moons. The moons are found in our solar system. These satellites are every bit as varied as the planets they orbit. The satellites are fascinating. For instance, neither of Mars's two moons is as much as 20 miles across. Two of Jupiter's moons are larger than the planet Mercury. These moons have little or no atmosphere. Most of the other moons in the solar system have little or no atmosphere. However, Titan has an atmosphere twice as dense as Earth's. Titan is Saturn's largest moon. Phoebe orbits Saturn in a direction opposite the other moons. Triton performs the same trick. It orbits Neptune. Triton is not content with just one special feature. Triton is also one of the two moons that hold solar-system records. Triton is the coldest body in the solar system. Jupiter's moon Io is the solar system's most volcanically active body. Uranus's moon Miranda broke to pieces in a huge collision. Miranda then drifted back together. An astronomer could spend all his or her time just studying the moons in our solar system.

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You might not think of West Texas when you think of astronomy. The McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains is one of the best places in America to view the stars. The University of Texas had no astronomy program to speak of. William Johnson McDonald willed over one million dollars to the university in 1926. He willed the money for the construction of a large telescope. The University of Texas joined in a partnership to found McDonald Observatory. The University of Chicago joined in a partnership to found McDonald Observatory. The Davis Mountains were chosen as the observatory's location. They were chosen for their high elevation, low humidity, and remoteness. The observatory is 160 miles from the nearest large city. The observatory has the darkest skies in North America. Several large telescopes belong to the observatory, including the Hobby-Eberly Telescope. The Hobby-Eberly Telescope is the third largest in the world. Another astronomical device is the McDonald Lunar Laser Ranging Station. The McDonald Lunar Laser Ranging Station fires a laser beam at the moon to measure its changes in motion. Perhaps the most exciting feature of the observatory is that it has several telescopes. These telescopes are public. Visitors can use them.