EXPLORING WRITTEN ENGLISH

A

Read the sentences below. Check (✓) the ones where the underlined part is …

1. an additional idea:
   a. Humans need three basic things to live: water to drink, air to breathe, and food to eat.
   b. There will be many difficulties in terraforming Mars.

2. a contrasting idea:
   a. A computer network will link these walls with everything else in your house.
   b. Robots already do many things such as building cars and vacuuming floors. But scientists today are starting to build friendlier, more intelligent robots.

3. a result:
   a. Some scientists believe that it’s possible to colonize Mars in the future.
   b. Even 1,000 years from now, there may still not be enough oxygen for humans to breathe, so people on Mars may still need to use special breathing equipment.

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING

Using And, But, and So

You can use the conjunctions and, but, and so to connect information in sentences.

And introduces an additional idea …
- to connect words: People will visit Mars and Venus.
- to connect phrases: People will visit Mars and build habitation modules.
- to connect clauses: People will visit Mars, and they will build habitation modules.

But introduces a contrasting idea …
- to connect words: It’s hot but habitable.
- to connect phrases: People will live on Mars but not on Venus.
- to connect clauses: People will live on Mars, but they won’t live on Venus.

So introduces results …
- to connect clauses: It’s very cold on Mars, so we will need to warm it up.

Remember:
- to use a comma when you connect clauses.
- when you use and and but, repeated subjects and auxiliary verbs in the second clause can be removed:

People will live on Mars. People will work on Mars.

subject auxiliary verb subject auxiliary verb

People will live and work on Mars.