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Oops!

Do I Do That?

Comprise vs. Compose

The whole *comprises* the parts; the parts *compose* the whole.

YES: The Union comprises 50 states.

YES: 50 states compose the Union.

NO: The Union is comprised of 50 states.

Ten Plurals You Should Know

1. *Octopus* = one sea creature
Octopuses (preferred) or
Octopodes (acceptable) = two sea creatures
2. *Cactus* = spiny desert plant
Cacti = two spiny desert plants
3. *Die* = small cube used in games
Dice = two small cubes used in games
4. *Datum* = one fact
Data = two facts
5. *Consortium* = one association
Consortia = two associations
6. *Criterion* = one standard
Criteria = two standards
7. *Analysis* = one critical examination
Analyses = two critical examinations
8. *Syllabus* = one course description
Syllabi (preferred) or
Syllabuses (acceptable) = two course descriptions
9. *Focus* = one point
Foci (preferred) or
Focuses (acceptable) = two points
10. *Crisis* = one moment of drama
Crises (preferred) or
Criseses (rare) = two moments of drama

Plurals: Extra Credit

Alumnus = male graduate or former student

Alumni = male graduates or both male and female graduates

Alumna = female graduate or former student

Alumnae = female graduates or former students

Exciting News From kelcilynn.com

Kelci Lucier, Founder and Executive Editor of kelcilynn.com, will soon “go live” as the College Life Guide for About.com. About, Inc. is owned by The New York Times and has 34 million unique users per month. Once the site goes live, articles can be viewed at <http://collegelife.about.com>.

Freelance and copywriting services will continue to be offered through kelcilynn.com. In the last month alone, kelcilynn.com has written for projects in education and the music and shipping industries. Check out <http://www.kelcilynn.com> for additional information and rates.

For The Days When Kelci Is On Vacation

An easy-to-understand and (mostly!) reliable online resource is the legendary Grammar Girl. Her site not only lists many helpful tips, but also has podcasts available for download.

It's bookmark worthy!

<http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com>

Not Only ... But Also

Did you know that, with very rare exceptions, when you use the phrase “not only,” it must be followed by “but also”? Using correlative expressions (like “either/or” and “neither/nor”) ensures your sentence is structured properly. If you use one term but not its partner, your sentence may be unclear, may be grammatically incorrect, and may leave an idea unfinished.

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