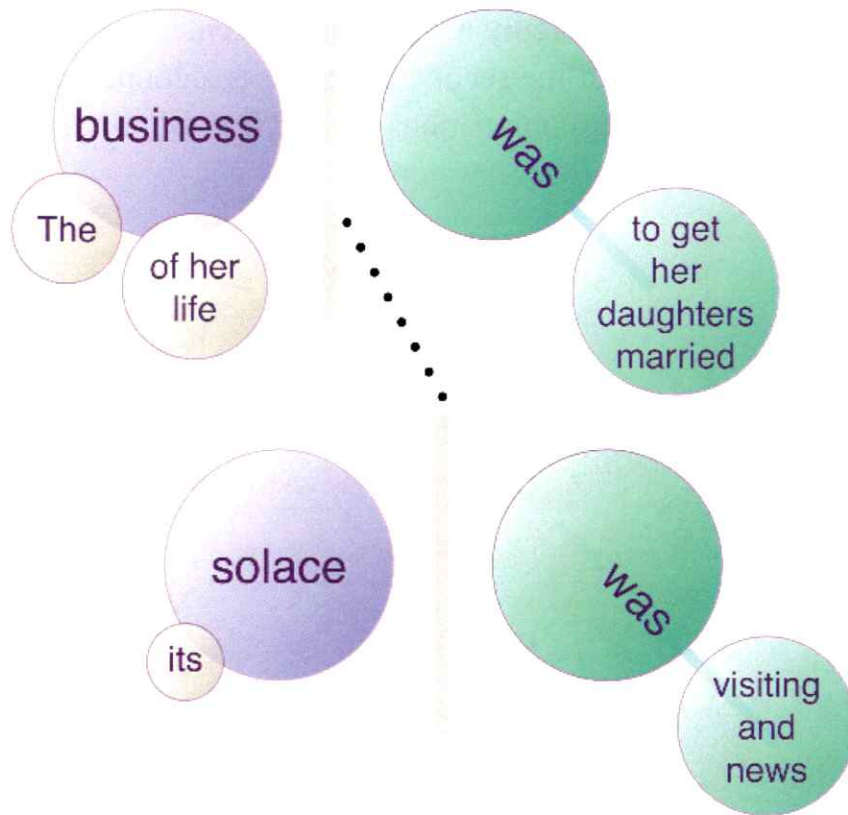


Here is a beautiful **compound sentence** from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*: "The business of her life was to get her daughters married; its solace was visiting and news." This sentence is more elaborate and interesting than it may seem at first.



In Austen's sentence we see two independent clauses joined to make a compound sentence. Notice how parallel the two clauses are: perfectly balanced on a semicolon, each with a linking verb and subject complement, the first clause with an infinitive, the second with a gerund. Notice that *was visiting* is not a verb; the solace was not visiting anything. The verb is *was*. We would call this an I;I structure: *independent-semicolon-independent*. When there is no coordinating conjunction, we connect two independent clauses with a semicolon.

The deeper question about such an I;I structure is whether the structure is justified. Would it be better to break this into two independent clauses, putting a period after *married* and beginning *its* with a capital *i*? No, that would suggest that the two ideas are not really related to each other, but they are. These are not unrelated thoughts. Notice the power of the *its* in the logic.