

## **“Combo” Sentence Exercises: Discussion**

1. **“Both [the contemplative and the active life] are, in fact, demanded by charity, since man is commanded to love both God and neighbor.”**

– Thomas Merton, **Contemplative Prayer** (Image Books, 1971), p. 52

*Discussion:* To break a combo sentence into its two parts (premise and conclusion), first find the marker – either a conclusion marker, or a premise marker.

In this sentence, the word “**since**” appears. “Since” is a **premise** marker. And that means that the sentence that immediately follows it – “man is commanded to love both God and neighbor” – must be the premise.

The other sentence – “Both [the contemplative and the active life] are, in fact, demanded by charity” – must be the **conclusion**.

Put in standard form, the combo sentence would appear as follows.

**1. Man is commanded to love both God and neighbor.**

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**∴ Both [the contemplative and the active life] are, in fact, demanded by charity.**

2. **“The Birthday Soup is hot, so we must eat it now.”**

– Little Bear, in Else Holmelund Minarik’s **Adventures of Little Bear** (Harper Collins, 1957), p. 29.

*Discussion:* In this sentence the marker is the word “so” – a conclusion marker. That makes “We must eat it now” the conclusion, and “The Birthday Soup is hot” the premise. In standard form, the argument would appear as follows.

**1. The Birthday Soup is hot.**

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**∴ We must eat it now.**