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I knew it was do or die. Gripping tightly to my sword I trashed wildly at the pirate who had swung down and landed on the deck in front of me. He was older and more experienced but I was younger and fitter. Raising my weapon I thrust it into his chest with all my might. He fell to the ground but not before I had been sprayed with his pirate blood. The smoke from the cannons and the noise from the battle could not hide the fact that we were losing the battle. Men were falling all around me and our ship was quickly being plundered of all its treasure. It would soon be over.

Can you join 2 sentences together using and or but?