

Name: _____ Block: _____ Date: _____

Sentence Joiners

Compound sentences or compound-complex sentences feature more than one independent clause. Because independent clauses are sentences on their own, they need to be joined together by something strong.

There are three main sentence (independent clause) joiners:

Coordinating Conjunctions can combine (or join) words, phrases, or clauses. They are the most common means of joining independent clauses.

- When a coordinating conjunction connects two independent clauses, there must be a comma before the coordinating conjunction

Example:

I usually don't mind missing school, **but** this is no fun.

I feel too sick to watch Netflix, **and** I feel too sick to eat.

Semicolons are a cross between a colon and a comma. A semicolon is used to join two closely related independent clauses that are not connected with a coordinating conjunction.

Example:

I do not call myself a poet; I told people I wrote poems.

--Terry McMillan, "Breaking Ice"

Conjunctive Adverbs can be used in order to join independent clauses. Quite like coordinating conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs show how the two clauses are related. Conjunctive adverbs are also often used as stand-alone transition words, and they add an air of formality and professionalism to writing.

Common Conjunctive Adverbs

*Also besides consequently finally furthermore however indeed instead
meanwhile moreover nevertheless next therefore thus*

- A semicolon is used *before* a conjunctive adverb—with a comma after it—when the word connects two independent clauses in a compound sentence

Conjunctive Adverbs

Example:

I am faced with my imminent demise; **therefore** , life becomes a very precious thing.

—Amy Taylor, “AIDS Can Happen Here!”

The rain poured down, and the temperatures rose; **consequently**, spring began in earnest.

All of the following are compound sentences. Label the subjects and verbs, and underline the independent clauses. Put the sentence joiners in a box, and label the type (coord. conj., semicolon, or conj. adv.)

1. I like baking, for it relaxes me; indeed, I always make something new when stressed.
2. For Easter I made hot cross buns; it was a lot of fun.
3. The Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor, and for over a century, it has greeted immigrants and visitors to America.
4. I once took a trip to New York City, so I got to see the statue in person.
5. My favorite part of the trip, though, was visiting a small, seemingly ancient bakery; it had unbelievable bagels.