

Using Sentence Connectors

Coordinating conjunctions are used in compound sentences. Remember them as 'A.B.Fonsy': and, but, for (meaning because), or, nor, so, yet. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction when you are writing a compound sentence.

The statement by the vice president may be correct, but we still need to know more about the problem.

The coordinating conjunction determines the relationship between the first independent clause and the second independent clause. These relationships are as follows.

and — **addition**

but — **contrast**

for — **reason**

or — **alternative**

nor — **addition** (when the first clause is negative)

so — **result**

yet — **contrast**

The use of 'nor' requires an inversion of the subject and the verb (usually the auxiliary verb).

The Treasurer will not abolish the tax, nor **will he** reduce HECS charges.

A small number of coordinating conjunctions are used in pairs.

either ... or — **alternative**

neither ... nor — **additional negation**

not only ... but also — **addition**

'neither ... nor' also requires subject verb inversion.

Neither of the witnesses mentioned the white car, nor **did they** give their names to the police.

'Not only ... but also' should be used sparingly. Use it when you want to add emphasis.

Conjunctive Adverbs are also used in compound sentences. They indicate the following relationships between the two independent clauses.

Addition — in addition, also, besides, furthermore, likewise, moreover

Contrast or Opposition — however, nevertheless, still, nonetheless, conversely, otherwise, instead, in contrast, on the other hand

Similarity — likewise, similarly, in the same way

Cause and Effect — accordingly, consequently, therefore, as a result, for this reason

Means and End — thus, thereby, by this means, in this manner

Emphasis — for, example, for instance, in fact, in particular, indeed

Time — meanwhile, subsequently, then, afterward, earlier, later

Use a semi-colon (;) before and a comma (,) *after* a **conjunctive adverb** when you are writing a compound sentence.

The effects of the eruption were well documented; **however**, its origin is still not known.

Subordinating conjunctions are used in complex sentences. They are part of the clause which follows and make it dependent. Clauses which begin with subordinating conjunctions are sometimes called **adverb clauses**. Subordinating conjunctions indicate the following relationships.

Time — after, as soon as, as long as, before, ever since, as, while

Causality — because, since

Concession and Contrast — although, though, even though, whereas, while

Condition — if, provided that, unless

Purpose — so that, in order that

Place — where

Result — so that

Comparison — than

If the **dependent clause** appears first, use a comma to separate the two clauses. No comma is required if the **independent clause** appears first.

Not all complex sentences can be inverted.

YES The average temperature was much higher **than** it was last year.

NO Than it was last year, the average temperature was much higher.

Compound-complex Sentences

Additions can be made to compound and complex sentences to create **compound-complex sentences**. A **compound-complex** sentence must have at least three clauses, and one of them must be an **independent clause**.