

Correlative conjunctions:

neither , nor, both , and , whether, or

Either finish your homework **or** forget the trip to the mall.

*I will go **not only** to France this summer **but also** to England in the fall.*

Correlative conjunctions are not separated by punctuation.

General Information

A *comma splice* refers to two sentences joined only by a comma and without a coordinating conjunction.

A *run-on* refers to two sentences joined only by a coordinating conjunction and without a comma before it.

A *fused sentence* refers to two sentences that are joined with nothing between them.

For more information, see *The Everyday Writer*, 3rd Edition, Section 22a (pages 187-188).



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Kent State University Writing Center

Coordinating

TWO Sentences



Mini-Lesson # 8

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Options for coordinating two sentences. . .

A comma and a coordinating conjunction (*and, but, or, for, so, yet, nor*):

Ann Landers is an advice columnist, *and* her twin sister also writes an advice column.

Mike looked for the way out of the cave, *but* he couldn't remember which tunnel to take.

Are you coming to the movies with us, *or* are you going to the mall with them?

The actors were all more nervous than usual before a play, *for* they had heard that the President and First Lady were in the audience.

Jeanette felt she had very poor public speaking skills, *so* she signed up for a non-credit speech course in order to practice.

I couldn't get into the class, *yet* I needed it to graduate.

The first taxicab did not stop for us, *nor* did any of the other four that passed us in the next hour.



A semicolon followed by a conjunctive adverb or transitional phrase and a comma:

Downsizing strikes fear in workers; *however*, it generally means prosperity for stockholders.

Children naturally imitate adults; *therefore*, responsible adults control their actions in front of children.

Paul seemed ready for the game; *on the other hand*, Jeff was anything but ready.

Janet failed the entrance exam; *as a result*, she had to postpone her dream of attending college for at least another year.

Some common conjunctive adverbs

accordingly	furthermore
meanwhile	specifically
also	hence
moreover	still
besides	however
nevertheless	subsequently
certainly	incidentally
next	then
consequently	instead
nonetheless	therefore
conversely	indeed
otherwise	thus
finally	likewise
similarly	

Some common transitional phrases

after all	by the way
in fact	as a matter of fact
even so	in other words
as a result	for example
at any rate	in the first place
for instance	on the contrary
in addition	at the same time
on the other hand	

A semicolon without a conjunctive adverb or transitional phrase:

The questions seemed harmless; the answers proved otherwise.

The crowd fell silent; the gasping player lay under the basket, writhing in pain.

A colon:

A colon means “*that is*” and is used between two sentences when the second sentence explains the first.

The first word after the colon *may* begin with a capital or lowercase letter; simply be consistent.

The war on drugs is over: drugs won.

Jim lived by the “Golden Rule”: do unto others as you want them to do unto you.