

Exercises for

Tutorial 15. Joining Ideas (Coordination, Subordination and Semicolons)

Principle I. Use a comma before a coordinator when joining two complete sentences.

Principle II. Use the correct coordinator (FANBOYS) to accurately show the logical relationship between the two sentences that you are joining.

Exercise 1

Instructions: Using Principles I and II, combine the following pairs of sentences with the correct coordinator (FANBOYS). Don't forget to add the comma when joining two sentences with a coordinator. *Type, write, or copy-paste and revise in the answer boxes.*

Examples:

Gilberto did not get many dates as a high school student. He was hopelessly shy. (**result-cause**)

Gilberto did not get many dates as a high school student, **for** he was hopelessly shy

He did not want to go to the senior prom without a date. He did not want to be alone for the rest of his life. (**addition of negatives**)

He did not want to go to the senior prom without a date, **nor** did he want to be alone for the rest of his life.

*(Notice that with **nor**, the subject and verb in the second sentence must change places: **he did not want** becomes **nor did he want.**)

1. He took a class called "Overcoming Shyness." He started hanging out with Don James, who promised to teach him how to meet girls. (addition)

2. His teacher in the class told him to try and make eye contact with girls occasionally. Gilberto started staring directly at every girl he saw. (cause-result)

15. Joining Ideas (Coordination, Subordination and Semicolons)

3. Most girls at his school seemed to find this staring creepy. Gilberto didn't notice. (contrast)

4. Don James told Gilberto to wear shirts that would show off his big biceps. Gilberto didn't have big biceps. (contrast) He stuffed his shirts full of cotton. (cause-result)

5. As the end of his senior year grew closer, Gilberto vowed to ask a girl on a date. He would give up trying forever. (alternatives)

6. Sally Saltwater, his first choice, was not impressed by Gilberto's habit of staring at her. She was not impressed by his puffed-up shirts. (addition of negatives)

7. Gilberto managed to win Sally's heart by singing a song he wrote himself called "Sally, My Sweet" to her. Don had told him what to do. (result-cause)

Exercise 2

Instructions: Using Principles I and II, supply the missing coordinator for each of the following sentences. Try to use all seven: **For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So.** *Type or write in the answer spaces.*

1. Lupita plans to run the Bay to Breakers marathon,
_____ she is training hard every day.
2. She is determined to win the race,
_____ so is every other athlete in the city.
3. Lupita relishes healthy competition,
_____ she knows exercise is the key to long life.
4. She should start spending an occasional evening at home with her boyfriend,
_____ he will join a single's club
5. He doesn't like to exert himself physically,
_____ does he have any sympathy for those who feel compelled to do so.

6. Lupita is disenchanted with his constant complaining,
_____ she is still fond of his cooking.
7. Lately he has been fixing her sprout burgers and mashed yeast,
_____ he understands that Lupita's dedication to health and fitness is complete.

Exercise 3

Instructions: Using Principles I and II, combine the following pairs of sentences using one of the FANBOYS. Think carefully about the logical relationship between the two ideas. Don't forget to add the comma when joining two sentences with a coordinator. *Type, write, or copy-paste and revise in the answer boxes.*

1. Congressman Krupt was determined to censor dirty rap lyrics. He wasn't sure how to go about it.
2. Notoriously foul-mouthed rapper M.C. Daffodil had just released a new album, "Your Mother is a Very Nice Person." He was the first artist the congressman thought to ban from radio.
3. Krupt was particularly outraged by the song "I Really Like My School." It included the word "yucky."
4. Most of the public didn't seem to mind the song. They didn't care that more and more kids were heard using the word "yucky" in everyday speech.
5. Congressman Krupt was determined that he would get the song banned. He would give up the whole effort to destroy rap music.
6. During an appearance on Oprah's show, Krupt used the expression "dog gone it." His outraged former allies in the Purity League denounced him.

Exercise 4

Instructions: Using Principles I and II, write seven sentences of your own, using a different coordinator (**for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so**) in each sentence. Remember that each of the FANBOYS represents a different relationship between the two complete sentences it connects. Don't forget to add the comma when joining two sentences with a coordinator. *Type or write in the answer boxes.*

Principle III. A subordinator is used to show the logical relationship between the ideas in the two sentences that you are joining.

Principle IV. When you use a subordinator at the beginning of a sentence, you must use a comma to separate the two clauses. If the subordinate clause is in the middle of the sentence, set it off from the rest of the sentence with commas. You do not use a comma if the subordinate or dependent clause comes at the end of the sentence.

Exercise 5

Instructions: Using Principle IV, *type or copy-paste* each subordinate clause from the following sentences. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. If Shireen wants to go to the hip-hop concert, I will be happy to babysit.

If Shireen wants to go to the hip-hop concert

2. Elena is eager to go to Bermuda on vacation next month although she has some concern about the impending air attendants' strike.

3. Yoshi is unable to join us at the restaurant since his father is arriving from Tokyo tonight.

4. Vinny maintains that he will go to school this semester if his boss will let him work nights.

5. Whenever there is a full moon, the emergency room at the hospital is full of accident victims.

6. Nico is tall and brown-eyed whereas his sister Anna is short and blue-eyed.

7. The mother robin, once she is established in the nest, will not leave.

Exercise 6

Instructions: Using Principles III and IV, join the following pairs of sentences using subordinators. In the first four sets of sentences, hints are given about what logical relationship should be shown. *Type, write, or copy-paste and revise in the answer boxes.*

Example:

Some rodents and birds eat cockroaches. Man is the biggest enemy of cockroaches. (CONTRAST)

Although some rodents and birds eat cockroaches, man is the biggest enemy of cockroaches.

1. Students often go out to eat or simply snack instead of fixing meals. They don't get all the vitamins and nutrients they need. (RESULT-CAUSE)

2. People try to kill pests like mice and rats with traps and poison. Such creatures are very successful at surviving. (CONTRAST)

3. Vanessa may not learn to trust adults. Her parents constantly lie and break their promises. (RESULT-CAUSE)

4. Michelle finally realized that she could learn what others could learn. She began studying for the G.E.D. and passed her high school equivalency examination. (TIME)

5. Against Timmy's wishes, his father carried him back to his room and told him a long, magical story. He finally gave in and fell asleep.

6. Heba was proud of herself for finally attending college. It had taken her a long time to find the courage and funds.

7. Most supporters of environmental conservation recycle everything from plastic containers to water. They understand that every little bit helps.

Principle V: A subordinate clause downplays an idea within a sentence.

Exercise 7

Instructions: Using Principles III, IV and V, combine each pair of sentences using a subordinator. Emphasize the underlined idea in the following sentences. The first sentence has been done for you. *Type, write, or copy and paste in the answer boxes.*

1. I walked into the restaurant. I felt nervous about meeting my blind date, Halle.

When I walked into the restaurant, I felt nervous about meeting my blind date, Halle.

subordinate clause

2. My friends had told me about all her virtues. I was expecting the perfect woman.

3. Kumar felt a hairy rat crawl over his arm. He reached up to turn on the light.

4. Maria was exhausted at school on Monday. She had been working overtime all weekend.

5. We were eager to see the show. We couldn't afford to buy two more tickets.

6. Matt saw mold all over the steak the waiter had served him. He almost vomited.

7. The mosquito dived persistently at the screen. It found its way through the tiny hole toward the baby's fat, soft arms.

--

Exercise 8

Instructions: Using Principles, III, IV and V, write six sentences that include subordinate (or dependent) clauses, using a different subordinator in each of the sentences. Vary the position of the subordinate clause. *Type or write in the answer boxes.*

Principle VI. The semicolon is used to join two related sentences when you choose not to use a coordinator or subordinator. You must not capitalize the first letter of the second sentence when you use a semi-colon.

Exercise 9

Instructions: Using Principle VI, write five sentences using semicolons. *Type or write in the answer boxes.*

Examples:

Ice skating is fun. It is also free.

Ice skating is **fun; it** is also free.

Don't dwell on the dangers. This kind of hobby is supposed to be fun.

Don't dwell on the **dangers; this** kind of hobby is supposed to be fun.

Principle VII. Although they can show the logical relationships that coordinators and subordinators do, transition words do not join sentences grammatically, so you must use a semicolon or period between sentences.

Exercise 10

Instructions: Using Principles VI and VII, rewrite the sentences below using semicolons with transition words. Use different transition words for each sentence. *Type, write, or copy and paste in the answer boxes.*

Example:

The baby was only four months old.

We could not expect to see her walk yet.

The baby was only four months old; therefore, we could not expect to see her walk yet.

1. Most people go to Great America in the summertime to ride the newest roller coasters. The lines for those rides can get extremely long.

2. Young children love the various Disney characters. Disneyland gets the most attention.

3. Over three million people visit Great America each summer. It gets very crowded during the summer months.

4. The roller coasters are the main attraction at Great America. Other activities, such as the shows and the cartoon characters, make the park enjoyable for people of all ages.

5. At Disneyland, cartoon characters such as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck walk around the park greeting and entertaining young children. These oversized creatures are part of the reason children beg their parents to bring them to the park.