**Combining Sentences**

* **Your Diagnosis.** Your writing can be improved by **combining sentences**. In fact, sentence combining encourages interesting word choices and the use of **transition** words!
* **Your Treatment Plan**. When combining two or more ideas in one sentence, you have several options. First of all, make sure you know your **FANBOYS coordinating conjunctions** (see below) and you have learned several **transitions** and transitional phrases. If your transitional vocabulary needs a boost, print out this [**List of Transitions**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/files/64016403?module_item_id=16918789) from our [**Resources Page**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules).
* **The Cure!**

1. Use a **comma** and a **coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS)** to join two sentences:

, for , and , nor , but , or , yet , so

**Example**: In Orthodox Jewish funerals, the shroud is a simple linen vestment**, and** the coffin is wood.

1. Use a **semicolon** with a **conjunctive adverb** or **transitional phrase** followed by a **comma** to join two sentences.

**Here’s a list of conjunctive adverbs:** accordingly, also, anyway, besides, certainly, consequently, finally, further, furthermore, hence, however, incidentally, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, namely, nevertheless, next, nonetheless, now, otherwise, similarly, still then, thereafter, therefore, thus, and undoubtedly.

**Example:** Alicia scored well on the SAT**; moreover,** she had excellent grades.

1. Consider **using a subordinate clause that begins with one of the following words to join two sentences.**

**Here’s a list of words you can choose from:** after, although, as, as if, as long as, as though, because, before, even if, even though, if, if only, in order that, now that, once, rather than, since, so that, than, though, till, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever, and while.

**Example: When** Elizabeth Stanton proposed a convention to discuss poverty in America, the board directors agreed unanimously.

cartoon-eyes[1] **Be on the lookout for…**

**Capitalization errors**. A **semi-colon** combines sentences; you **do not capitalize** the first letter of the next sentence.

* + ERROR: Ted Williams was one of the best hitters in the history of baseball; **H**owever, he never won a World Series ring.
  + REVISED: Ted Williams was one of the best hitters in the history of baseball; **h**owever, he never won a World Series ring.

**Poor word choice. Make sure the conjunction you choose makes sense.**

* + ERROR: My sister loves yoga, **but** she created her own program three years ago.
  + REVISED: My sister loves yoga, **so** she created her own program three years ago.

**Try it out! Complete the practice exercises on the next page!**

**Directions:** In the following sentences, combine the thoughts into one sentence, using a **conjunctive adverb** from this list: **accordingly, also, anyway, besides, certainly, consequently, finally, further, furthermore, hence, however, incidentally, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, namely, nevertheless, next, nonetheless, now, otherwise, similarly, still then, thereafter, therefore, thus,** and **undoubtedly**.

You must put a **semicolon before** and a **comma after** these conjunctions in the sentence. **Use a different conjunctive adverb for each sentence.**

1. Insect pests had infested the orchard. The fruit had to be fumigated.

**ANSWER**: Insect pests had infested the orchard**; therefore,** the fruit had to be fumigated.

2. The judge had ruled the strike illegal. The workers walked off the job.

3. Legal immigration was at an all-time high. Thousands of illegal aliens were crossing the borders.

4. Relaxation techniques have improved. Few people know them.

5. Mr. Jones came to the meeting. He has proven that he is our best leader.

B. Combine the sentences below into one sentence, using a subordinating conjunction from this list: **after, although, as, as if, as long as, as though, because, before, even if, even though, if, if only, in order that, now that, once, rather than, since, so that, than, though, till, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever,** and **while**.

1. Whales and dolphins are mammals. Many people think of them as huge fish.

**ANSWER**: **Although** whales and dolphins are mammals, many people think of them as huge fish.

2. The guide showed us the spot. Gold was found near Sutter’s Mill.

3. The city will have to lay off many workers. The budget will be cut further.

4. Helen Keller is my hero. I did a report on her.