

Compound sentences

A compound sentence:

- has 2 or more independent clauses
- joins ideas of equal importance
- connects independent clauses using coordinating conjunctions, semicolons or conjunctive adverbs.

Examples

1

The cat sat on the mat, and the dog sat outside.

independent clause

coordinating conjunction

independent clause

Examples of coordinating conjunctions include: and, but, or, so.

2

The cat sat on the mat; the dog sat outside.

independent clause

semi colon

independent clause

3

The cat sat on the mat; however, the dog sat outside.

independent clause

conjunctive adverb

independent clause

Examples of conjunctive adverbs include: furthermore, consequently, however, additionally.



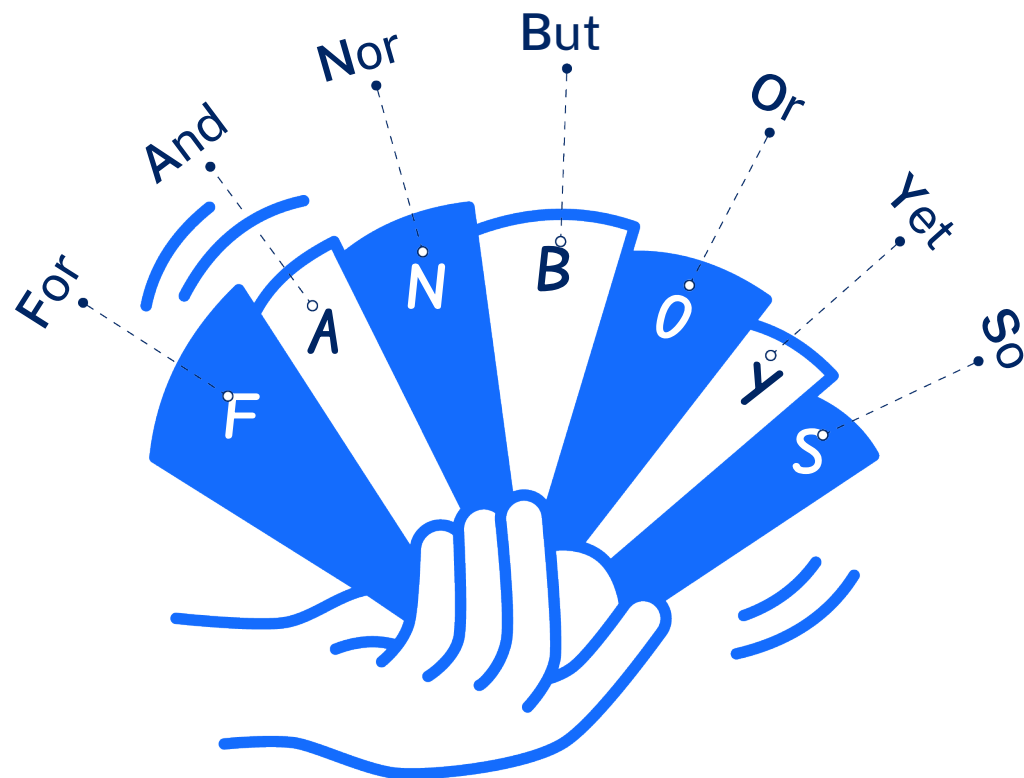
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Punctuating a compound sentence

When writing a compound sentence that:

- ① contains a coordinating conjunction, a comma is used at the end of the first independent clause.
- ② does not contain a coordinating conjunction, a semicolon is used between the 2 independent clauses.
- ③ contains a conjunctive adverb, a semicolon is used. A semicolon is used at the end of the first independent clause, and a comma is used after the conjunctive adverb.

Coordinating conjunctions



Conjunctive adverbs

additionally likewise furthermore

however on the other hand alternatively instead

accordingly as a result

for example for instance