

# Joining Clauses, Sentence Types, and Punctuation

## 1. Simple sentence = one independent clause.

The results of the study were conclusive. More work needs to be done now.

## 2. Compound sentence = two independent clauses joined

**FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)** are used to join the independent clauses.

The results of the study were conclusive, **but** more work needs to be done now.

You may use a **semicolon** between two closely related independent clauses.

- Another way to compose a compound sentence is to use a **semicolon**, when two clauses are clearly related, such as in cause-effect relationship, or when a clause amplifies (builds on/clarifies) the first:

The results of the study were conclusive; more work needs to be done now.

- When using a semicolon, we can also add a **conjunctive adverb** or **transitional phrase** to directly show the relationship between our clauses (note the comma following the adverb):

The results of the study were conclusive; **however**, more work needs to be done now.

The results of the study were conclusive; more work, **however**, needs to be done now.

### Some conjunctive adverbs:

also	however	next	nonetheless
indeed	otherwise	likewise	similarly
still	moreover	then	consequently
finally	hence	thus	meanwhile
nevertheless	instead	besides	furthermore

### Some transitional phrases:

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

The results of the study were conclusive; **at the same time**, more work needs to be done.

Not all factors were tested; **for example**, some variants were ignored in the study.

3. **Complex sentence** = one independent clause joined with one dependent clause, in either order.

**Remember: A dependent clause begins with a word or phrase such as one of the following:**

Dependent Words		
after	if, even if	when, whenever
although, though	in order that	where, wherever
as	since	whether
because	so that	which, whichever
before	unless	while
even though	until	who, whoever
how	what, whatever	whose

**Although** the results of the study were conclusive, more work needs to be done.

More work needs to be done **even though** the results of the study were conclusive.

4. **Complex-compound sentence** = three clauses joined, containing both a compound and complex join.

The results of the study were conclusive.

More work needs to be done.

Not all factors were tested.

**Although** the results of the study were conclusive, not all factors were tested, **so** more work needs to be done.

The results of the study were conclusive, **but** more work needs to be done **because** not all factors were tested.

5. **Sentences with essential and non-essential modifiers** (when to use "broccoli fists")

- Modifiers, such as appositives, describe or identify nouns in a clause. If a modifier is necessary (essential) to identify the subject, do not set it off with removal handles ("broccoli fists"):

The study that was done in 2010 did not test all factors that were tested in the 2015 study.

The doctor who holds the record for performing the most heart surgeries wins an award.

- Modifiers that add description but are not necessary to identify the subject are considered non-essential and are set off within commas (removal "handles").

The study, which compared rats to mice, was conclusive in identifying complex social order.

Dr. Stein, who holds the record for performing the most heart surgeries, died yesterday.