

JOINING CLAUSES: PUNCTUATION CHECK

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.

COMMA SPLICE CHECK:

ONLY A COMMA BETWEEN TWO INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

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

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

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

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:

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

3. Complex sentence: A sentence beginning with a dependent clause.

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

COMMA CHECK:

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.

5. Sentences with 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").

COMMA CHECK:

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

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