

Combining Sentences Using the Three Options for Coordination

Coordination is the joining of two sentences, known as independent clauses, which are related and contain ideas of equal importance.

A *compound sentence* is a sentence composed of two independent clauses joined by means of coordination.

There are three options for coordination:

1. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*and, but, for, nor, or, yet, so*) between the independent clauses.

Example: Jamee wanted to go to the basketball game , but she needed a ride.

2. Use a semicolon, an adverbial conjunction, and a comma between the two independent clauses.

Example: Jamee wanted to go to the game ; however, she needed a ride.

3. Use only a semicolon between two independent clauses.

Example: Jamee wanted to go to the basketball game ; she needed a ride.

Combining Sentences Using Subordination

Subordination is the joining of two clauses containing ideas that are not equally important. The main point of the sentence is contained in the independent clause, and the less important point is contained in the dependent clause. These clauses are joined by means of subordinating conjunctions (*after, since, because, although, until, unless, etc.*) and relative pronouns (*who, whose, whom, which, that*). Sentences joined through subordination are called complex sentences.

Example sentences to combine (two independent clauses):

Rodney has a great analytical mind.
He will be a good engineer.

Combining Sentences Using Subordinating Conjunctions

Because Rodney has a great analytical mind, he will be a good engineer.

Combining Sentences Using Relative Pronouns

Rodney, who has a great analytical mind, will be a good engineer.