

# SENTENCE VARIETY GUIDE

The English language features many different sentence structures. A simple sentence needs only a subject and a verb, but more complex sentence layouts require some form of connection between ideas. These connections can come in one of the four following forms:

Generally, each sentence variety requires a different form of punctuation. Please refer to the punctuation examples for these conjunction formats in our “Punctuation Guide.”

## 1. COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

- These are used to connect sentences featuring **multiple subject and verb pairs**:

*Colin tried to microwave water, but Amy switched it over to the tea kettle.*

- Or, to connect sentences featuring **one subject with multiple verbs**:

*Danielle sipped tea and read the novel.*

## 2. SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS

- These connect sentences featuring **multiple clauses**. Subordinate conjunctions can appear either **at the very beginning** of the sentence or **between the clauses**.

*Heather ate the food because Kathryn offered it to her.*

*After Kana ate all of the food, Christina brought her more.*

## 3. CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

- Correlative conjunctions **come in pairs**, and writers use them to connect sentence elements while **showing contrasts and relationships**.

*Either by luck or by process of elimination, the student found our office in the library.*

*If the student does not find the Writing Lab, then Nikki will have nothing to do.*

## 4. CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS & TRANSITIONAL PHRASES

- Writers use conjunctive adverbs and transitional phrases to show **connections between complete sentences**.

*Jaelyn tried to reboot the inbox; however, it froze again.*

*Jaelyn tried to reboot the inbox. However, it froze again.*

*Jaelyn tried to reboot the inbox. It, however, froze again.*

PRACTICE NOW

# SENTENCE VARIETY CHART

## COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

and	but	for	nor	or	so	yet
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Subject + Verb (*Comma*) **Conjunction** + Subject + Verb

Subject + Verb + **Conjunction** + Verb

## SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS

after	although	as	as if	because	before
even	if	inasmuch	now	once	provided
rather	since	so that	that	though	unless
until	when	whenever	where	whether	while

Subject + Verb + **Conjunction** + Subject + Verb

**Conjunction** + Subject + Verb (*Comma*) Subject + Verb.

## CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

*(If showing comparison, both parts of the pair must be present. When necessary, punctuate according to coordinating or subordinate conjunction rules.)*

both/and	either/or	hardly/when	if/then
just as/so	neither/nor	not only/but also	whether/or

## COORDINATING ADVERBS/TRANSITIONAL PHRASES

additionally	anyway	as a result	besides	certainly
eventually	finally	furthermore	hence	however
in addition	in contrast	in fact	incidentally	instead
just as	likewise	meanwhile	moreover	namely
next	notably	now	otherwise	rather
similarly	still	then	therefore	thus

Subject + Verb (*Semicolon/Period*) - **Phrase/Adverb** (*Comma*) Subject + Verb.

Subject + Verb (*Semicolon/Period*) - Subject (*Comma*) **Phrase/Adverb** (*Comma*) Verb.

Subject + Verb (*Semicolon/Period*) - Subject + Verb (*Comma*) **Phrase/Adverb**.