



Conjunctions 2

Compound & Complex Sentences

COMPOUND SENTENCES

A **compound sentence** consists of two or more simple sentences joined together by coordinate conjunctions or by a semicolon. **Coordinate conjunctions** join two words, phrases or clauses that are equally important. They are used with a comma unless the clauses are brief. The main examples of this kind of conjunction are used in these examples:

Examples: He is very smart, and he knows it.

He is very smart, but he hides it.

He is very smart, for he reads a lot.

In this sentence the conjunction for means the same as because.

He is very smart, or at least he appears to be.

He is very smart, yet he makes mistakes.

In this sentence the conjunction yet means the same as but.

He is very smart, so he doesn't study.

Some conjunctions always appear in pairs. These conjunctions are called **correlative conjunctions**. They are a kind of coordinate conjunction.

Examples: Either you love Vancouver, or you leave it.

Neither did she love Vancouver, nor did she leave it.

Not only did he love Vancouver, but he also decided to stay forever.

One other common pair of correlative conjunctions is **both... and**, but you can't use them to make compound sentences.

Compound sentences can also be made by putting a semicolon (;) between two closely related sentences. An adverb called a **conjunctive adverb** is often put after the semicolon to make the connection between the sentences more obvious. Since conjunctive adverbs are really adverbs, they can also appear in other parts of the sentence besides immediately after the semicolon. Some common ones are:

also
consequently
furthermore
then
indeed
accordingly
still

however
likewise
moreover
thus
on the other hand
hence
anyhow

nevertheless
otherwise
therefore
in fact
on the contrary
besides
secondly



Examples: Steve cultivates and waters his garden regularly; also, he uses chemical fertilizers.

Steve cultivates and waters his garden regularly; consequently, he can expect a good crop.

Steve cultivates and waters his garden regularly; furthermore, he fertilizes each individual plant.

Steve cultivates and waters his garden regularly; indeed, he is a fine gardener.

Steve cultivates and waters his garden regularly; he sometimes waters his plants too much, however.

COMPLEX SENTENCES

A **complex sentence** consists of a main (independent) clause and at least one subordinate (dependent) clause. The subordinate (adverb) clause can be placed before or after the main clause, or it can be inserted between the subject and the verb of the main clause. Use a comma after the subordinate clause if it comes at the beginning of a sentence.

The following words are conjunctions *only* if they introduce subordinate clauses and connect them to main clauses. There are many other words and combinations of the words below which act as conjunctions in complex sentences.

after	although	even if	as	though
in order that	as if	because	whether	before
so that	whichever	how	unless	as far as
if	whatever	as long as	since	whenever
provided that	whose	until	which	so
what	while	why	when	whoever
whomever	who	whom		

Examples: The donkey refused to move unless it was given a carrot.

The donkey refused to move after we filled its baskets.

In these two sentences, the subordinate clause is after the main clause.

Although we tried our best to convince it, the donkey refused to move.

In this sentence, the subordinate clause is before the main clause.

We must use a **comma** to separate them.

The donkey, as if it was glued to the ground, refused to move.

In this sentence, the subordinate clause is after the main clause.

