

A complete sentence has to have a subject and a verb.

The verb cannot be an -ing form standing alone:

John swimming. (NOT a sentence—no verb)

The verb cannot be an infinitive (“to” + verb) standing alone:

John to swim. (NOT a sentence—no verb)

### WAYS YOU CAN COMBINE SENTENCES:

1. Use a comma before the connecting words (coordinating conjunctions) listed below.

<u>Independent clause</u> ,	<table style="border: none; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">and</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">but</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">for</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">or</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">nor</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">yet</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">so</td></tr> </table>	and	but	for	or	nor	yet	so	<u>independent clause</u> .
and									
but									
for									
or									
nor									
yet									
so									

**Example 1.** I was tired after working all day, so I decided to go to bed early.

2. Use a semicolon between two independent clauses.

Independent clause ; independent clause .

**Example 2.** I was tired from working all day; I decided to go to bed early.

3. Use a semicolon before the connecting words (conjunctive adverbs) listed below followed by a comma.

<u>Independent clause</u> ;	<table style="border: none; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">accordingly</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">also</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">besides</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">consequently</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">furthermore</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">however</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">moreover</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">nevertheless</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">otherwise</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">then</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">therefore</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">thus</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">still</td></tr> </table>	accordingly	also	besides	consequently	furthermore	however	moreover	nevertheless	otherwise	then	therefore	thus	still	<u>independent clause</u> .
accordingly															
also															
besides															
consequently															
furthermore															
however															
moreover															
nevertheless															
otherwise															
then															
therefore															
thus															
still															

**Example 3.** I was tired from working all day; therefore, I decided to go to bed early.

4. When the dependent clause begins with a subordinating conjunction (connecting word) and precedes the independent clause, separate the clauses with a comma.

After Although Even though Though As As if As though As long as Because Before If So that Since So (meaning So that) Unless Until Whatever When Whenever Where Wherever Whether While	<p><u><i>dependent clause</i></u> ,</p> <p><i>(Subordinate clauses are dependent. They can't stand alone as complete sentences because they begin with a subordinating conjunction.)</i></p>	<p><u><i>independent clause</i></u> .</p> <p><i>(Independent clauses can stand alone as complete sentences.)</i></p>
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**Example 4.**     *Since I was tired, I decided to go to bed.*

5. When the dependent (subordinate) clause follows the independent clause, don't use a comma before or after the subordinating conjunction (connecting word).

<p><u><b>Independent clause</b></u></p> <p><b>(Independent clauses can stand alone as complete sentences.)</b></p>	after although even though though as as if as though as long as because before if so/ so that since unless until whatever when whenever where wherever whether while	<p><u><i>dependent clause</i></u> .</p> <p><i>(Subordinate clauses are dependent. They can't stand alone as complete sentences because they begin with a subordinating conjunction.)</i></p>
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**Example 5.**     *I decided to go to bed since I was tired.*