

Sentence Patterns and Punctuation

1. **Simple sentence** = one independent clause.

The basketball championship game was at hand. The girls were excited.

2. **Compound sentence** = two independent clauses joined

FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) are used to join the independent clauses.

The basketball championship game was at hand, **and** the girls were excited.

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

- Another way to compose a compound sentence is to use a **semicolon**, when two clauses are clearly related, such as in cause-effect relationship, or when a clause amplifies (builds on/clarifies) the first:

The basketball championship game was at hand; the girls were excited.

- When using a semicolon, we can also add a **conjunctive adverb** or **transitional phrase** to directly show the relationship between our clauses (note the comma following the adverb):

The basketball championship game was at hand; **therefore**, the girls were excited.

The basketball championship game was at hand; the girls, **therefore**, were excited.

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:

after all	as a result	at any rate	by the way
even so	for example	in fact	at the same time
in other words	in addition	on the contrary	on the other hand

The basketball championship game was at hand; **as a result**, the girls were excited.

The girls were excited; **for example**, they couldn't sit down to wait for the game to start.

3. **Complex sentence** = one independent clause joined with one dependent clause, in either order.

Remember: 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

Because the basketball championship game was at hand, the girls were excited.

The girls were excited **because** the basketball championship game was at hand.

4. **Complex-compound sentence** = three clauses joined, containing both a compound and complex join.

The basketball championship game was at hand.

The girls were excited.

They couldn't sit down to wait for the game to start.

Because the basketball championship game was at hand, the girls were excited, **and** they couldn't sit down to wait for the game to start.

The basketball championship game was at hand; the girls couldn't sit down to wait for the game **because** they were excited.