

Joining Clauses, Sentence Types, and Punctuation

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

The football championship game was Friday. The team was excited.

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

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

The football championship game was Friday, **and** the team was 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 football championship game was Friday; the team was 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 football championship game was Friday; **therefore**, the team was excited.

The football championship game was Friday; the team, **therefore**, was 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 football championship game was Friday; **as a result**, the team was excited.

The team was excited; **however**, their quarterback had the flu.

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 football championship game was Friday, the team was excited.

The team was excited **because** the football championship game was Friday.

* A comma is needed when the dependent clause is **introductory** to the main (independent) clause.

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

The football championship game was Friday.

The team was excited.

Their quarterback had the flu.

Because the football championship game was Friday, the team was excited, **but** their quarterback had the flu.

The football championship game was Friday, **and** the team was excited **even though** their quarterback had the flu.