

COMBINING SENTENCES

Combining sentences clarifies the relationships between ideas and creates a much more focused sentence. This makes the sentence smoother and more concise.

Two sentences can only be combined if each is a complete sentence and if both sentences are related in thought. If they are not related, the resulting sentence will not make sense.

EX. My dog is a poodle.

It rained yesterday.

My dog is a poodle and it rained yesterday.

Each sentence must have a subject and a predicate. If not, it will again result in a sentence that will not make sense.

EX. My dog is a poodle.

Plays with the frisbee.

My dog is a poodle plays with the frisbee.

If complete sentences are combined incorrectly, the result will be a run-on sentence or a comma splice.

EX.: Run-on sentence: *Jane likes to dance it was her pastime.*

Comma splice: *The boy threw his hat, then he stomped on it.*

HOW TO CORRECTLY COMBINE TWO SENTENCES

- I. Use a **comma** and a **coordinating conjunction** such as *and, or, nor, yet, but, so*, etc.

My dog is a poodle.

She is the most beautiful one around.

My dog is a poodle, and she is the most beautiful one around.

- II. Use a **semicolon**.

My dog is a poodle; she is the most beautiful one around.

- III. Use a **semicolon** and **conjunctive adverb** such as *however, moreover, nevertheless, therefore, consequently, of course, in fact, indeed*, etc.

My dog is a poodle; however, she is not very small.

****NOTE:** the conjunctive adverb will always be followed by a comma.**

- IV. Create a **subordinate clause** using *because, although, even though, as*, etc. and a comma to create a complex relationship.

Although my dog is a poodle, she is the most beautiful dog around.