

KELLI'S AMAZING, SUPER-STUPENDOUS SENTENCE COMBINING SHEET

1. INDEPENDENT CLAUSE. E.G. *THE CHICAGO CUBS IS THE GREATEST TEAM IN BASEBALL.* BEWARE OF FRAGMENTS: PHRASES THAT CANNOT STAND ON THEIR OWN BECAUSE THEY LACK A SUBJECT, VERB, OR BOTH.

- ▶ A gerund phrase functions as a noun. It begins with a verb ending in –ing: *Knowing she had to decide was driving Lucinda insane.*
 - ▶ An infinitive phrase includes an infinitive (a verb beginning with “to”) and its objects, complements, and modifiers: It functions as an adjective (*The Pacific Coast is the place to be.*), adverb (*She went to pay her taxes.*), or noun (*To be young again is all I want.*)
 - ▶ A noun phrase includes a noun and its modifiers: *A long, rough road crossed the barren desert.*
 - ▶ A participial phrase includes a present participle (always ending in –ing) or past participle (usually ending in –ed unless verb is irregular) and its objects, complements, or modifiers. It functions as an adjective: *Absentmindedly climbing the stairs, he stumbled. They bought a house built in 1895.*
 - ▶ A prepositional phrase is introduced by a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun, called the object of the preposition. It functions as an adjective (*The gas in the laboratory was leaking.*), an adverb (*The firefighters went to the lab to check.*), or a noun (*The smell came from inside the wall.*).
 - ▶ A verb phrase is composed of a main verb and one or more auxiliaries, acting as a single verb in the sentence predicate: *I should have come to the review session.*
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2. IF THE TWO SENTENCES ARE CLOSELY RELATED AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT, YOU CAN JOIN THEM WITH A COMMA AND A COORDINATING CONJUNCTION: AND, OR, NOR, FOR, BUT, YET, SO.

- ▶ Independent clause + , + coordinating conjunction + independent clause: *I should pay my tuition, but I need a new car.*
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3. IF THE IDEAS IN THE TWO CLAUSES ARE CLOSELY RELATED AND YOU WANT TO GIVE THEM EQUAL EMPHASIS, ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO LINK THEM WITH A SEMICOLON.

- ▶ Independent clause + ; + independent clause.
Sammy Sosa deserves the National League MVP award; his 66 home runs, 158 RBIs, and solid play in right field make him an invaluable player to the Cubs.
- ▶ Comma splices often result when writers link clauses with a conjunctive adverb like *however* or *therefore* or a transitional phrase like *in fact*. In such sentences, the two

clauses must be separated by a semicolon or by a comma and a coordinating conjunction. In addition, conjunctive adverbs are usually set off from the second sentence by a comma.

- ▶ Independent clause + ; + conjunctive adverb + , + independent clause.

The Cubs beat the Braves 4 out of 6 games this season; however, the playoffs are a whole new game.

- ▶ Conjunctive adverbs: however, nevertheless, consequently, furthermore, moreover, anyway, also, besides, finally, likewise, instead, incidentally, indeed, meanwhile, and namely.

4. WHEN TWO INDEPENDENT SENTENCES ARE SPLICED OR FUSED, YOU CAN SOMETIMES REDUCE THEM TO A SINGLE INDEPENDENT SENTENCE.

- ▶ Run-on sentence: *Many students complain that a large part of their Pell grants is taken up by books the rest is school fees.*
- ▶ Fixed: *Many students complain that most of their Pell grants are taken up by books and school fees.*

5. WHEN ONE INDEPENDENT SENTENCE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER IS, TRY CONVERTING ONE TO A DEPENDENT SENTENCE.

- ▶ C-S: *Zora Neale Hurston is regarded as one of America's major novelists, she died in obscurity.*
- ▶ Fixed: *Although Zora Neale Hurston is regarded as one of America's major novelists, she died in obscurity.*

The first sentence stands in contrast to the second one: in contrast to Hurston's importance today are the circumstances of her death. In the revision, the writer chose to emphasize the second sentence and to make the first one into a dependent sentence by adding the subordinating conjunction *although*. When combining sentences, you must decide if they are coordinate (the information is equally important) or if they are subordinate (one sentence is more important than the other is).

- ▶ Subordinating conjunction/relative pronoun + independent clause + , + independent clause.

Although the Cubs lost the first game against Atlanta, I believe that they will beat the Braves.

Or

- ▶ Independent sentence + subordinating conjunction/relative pronoun + independent sentence. (no comma needed)

I believe the Cubs will beat the Braves although they lost the first game.

- ▶ Subordinating conjunctions: although, because, since, when, while, after, even before, if, any, even though.
- ▶ Relative pronouns: who, whom, which, that (these introduce subordinate clauses acting as adjectives)