



## APSU Writing Center

### Combining Sentences

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Resources: *The Writer's Harbrace Handbook*, 3rd edition; *The LB Brief Handbook*, 5th edition; and the Middle Tennessee State University website.

- The best papers flow smoothly from one idea to another. Choppy writing is usually the biggest issue when a paper doesn't flow well. One way to avoid choppiness is the combination of simple sentences to show the relationship between the ideas of two sentences.
- **Example of choppy writing:**
  - The workers built the roads. They were tired after a hot day.

#### Ways to Combine Sentences

- Use a comma and a **coordinating conjunction**.
  - The best way to remember the seven coordinating conjunctions is by using the acronym FANBOYS: (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).
  - **Example:** The workers built the roads, and they were tired after a hot day.

- Use a semicolon and a **conjunctive adverb**.
  - Conjunctive Adverb List:

■ accordingly	■ comparatively	■ furthermore	■ incidentally	■ next	■ since
■ additionally	■ consequently	■ granted	■ indeed	■ nonetheless	■ still
■ again	■ conversely	■ hence	■ instead	■ now	■ subsequently
■ all in all	■ elsewhere	■ henceforth	■ lately	■ of course	■ that is
■ also	■ equally	■ however	■ likewise	■ on the other hand	■ then
■ anyway	■ finally	■ in addition	■ meanwhile	■ otherwise	■ thereafter
■ beforehand	■ for example	■ in conclusion	■ moreover	■ rather	■ therefore
■ besides	■ for instance	■ in spite of	■ namely	■ regardless	■ thus
■ certainly	■ further	■ in summary	■ nevertheless	■ similarly	■ undoubtedly

- **Example:** The workers built the roads; consequently, they were tired after a hot day.
- Use a subordinate clause (a phrase dependent upon the main part of a sentence) to show the relative importance of the two clauses. When a subordinate clause is at the end of the sentence, though, no comma is used.
  - **Example:** Because the workers built the roads, they were tired after a hot day.
  - **Example:** The workers were tired after a hot day because they built the roads.
- Use relative pronouns (that, which, who, whom, whose, whoever, whomever) to combine ideas.
  - **Example:** The workers who built the roads were tired after a hot day.