

Language Mechanics Handout 077

Punctuation Tips for Compound Sentences

A compound sentence is a sentence that contains two or more independent clauses. The independent clauses must be joined by one of the methods below to form one sentence. Remember: An independent clause must have a subject and a verb and be able to stand alone as a simple sentence.

Independent clauses

Bobby returned the watch to the store. (***Bobby*** is the subject, and ***returned*** is the verb.)
 The clerk refunded his money. (***Clerk*** is the subject, and ***refunded*** is the verb.)

A compound sentence can be created by joining the two independent clauses with a comma and one of the coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS).

	, for	
	, and	
	, nor	
Independent clause	, but	independent clause
	, or	
	, yet	
	, so	

Example:

Bobby returned the watch to the store, so the clerk refunded his money.

A compound sentence can be created by joining the two independent clauses with a semicolon. NOTE: Do not capitalize the first word of the independent clause following the semicolon.

Independent clause	; semicolon	independent clause
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Example:

Bobby returned the watch to the store; the clerk refunded his money.

Bobby returned the watch to the store; the clerk, therefore, refunded his money.

A compound sentence can be created by joining the two independent clauses with a semicolon, a conjunctive adverb, and a comma.

Independent clause	; conjunctive adverb,	independent clause
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Example:

Bobby returned the watch to the store; therefore, the clerk returned his money.

Exercises

Directions: Put in commas/semicolons as needed

1. Sally and Tom left to see their grandmother in Ohio and they won't be back for days.
2. The daughter of a friend was a poor student nevertheless she tried hard to succeed.
3. We did the homework assignment we therefore understood the lesson.
4. She drove to the library in Malverne then she went to the movies.
5. The baby was taking a nap and her mom was reading a book.
6. The students were overjoyed with their grades in fact they had a party after class.
7. I couldn't find the doctor's office I was on the wrong street.
8. Mary slept until noon and then she took a walk.
9. He may decide to go with me or he may decide to stay home.
10. She wanted to go to dinner at six o'clock but I couldn't go.
11. My dad won first prize in the contest and we were very proud of him.
12. Tammy overslept this morning consequently she missed her first class.
13. Please stay we need your help.
14. Mom and Dad weren't mad at us on the contrary they thought that we acted responsibly.
15. We passed with flying colors Mary on the other hand got the lowest grade.
16. June called me on the phone and then she came to my house.
17. Bob left at noon then he stopped for lunch.
18. The room was empty no one was around.
19. They were ready for the debate in fact they had studied for weeks.
20. I am going to the dance on Friday therefore I need a new dress.
21. She studied all night nevertheless she failed her test.
22. My exam was very difficult in fact it was impossible.
23. I decided to go home early so I left at 12:00.
24. John and Sam drove to visit Aunt Sally in Ohio she unfortunately was not home.
25. The car was running out of gas as a result I had to find a gas station quickly.
26. My friends left at noon I on the other hand left at 2:00.

27. All of the children passed the math exam and the teacher praised them several times.
28. The pets in the pound were very noisy so the neighbors complained to the city officials.
29. Please drive carefully the roads are slippery.
30. Many television shows are educational others however are not.
31. In some foreign countries grade school children must master a second language unfortunately this practice is not followed in our country.
32. The fog was dense this morning it had lifted by noon however.
33. We left by noon for we were expected in Tallahassee by dark.
34. The show was canceled still the fans wrote letters of protest.
35. My English test was easy consequently I was able to get an A for the first semester.
36. The members of the club are selling candy I however did not buy for myself.
37. The tickets were free yet John chose not to attend the concert.
38. The weather report indicated rain in fact thunderstorms were forecast for Tuesday.
39. Yoga is a popular form of relaxation it is not however for me.
40. Driving into the afternoon sun often gives me a headache so I take two aspirin tablets before leaving.
41. Many people ski during Christmas vacation for some people however the cost is too high.
42. The boys may design the banner or the girls may.
43. The recipe seemed so simple the cake unfortunately was not good.
44. I paid my fees for the course nevertheless it was canceled before the first class meeting.
45. We need more help in the afternoons our work load has doubled.
46. He has difficulty in reading yet he usually scores well on all of the standardized tests.
47. Reno Nevada is located on the shore of Lake Tahoe it is often called "The Biggest Little City in the World."
48. I often wonder about some of my high school friends but I never make an effort to contact any of them.
49. Make a list of the group's proposals and it can be submitted soon.
50. Sanibel Island is a popular tourist destination many visitors as a matter of fact go there to look for seashells.