Combining Sentences

Joining Sentences by Coordination

Option 1—coordinating conjunction

Independent Clause, for, and, nor, but, or, yet Independent Clause.

Example: She learned to study more often, for she wanted to pass her classes.

Option 2—semi-colon

Independent Clause; Independent Clause.

Example: I love chocolate; I devour several bars every day.

Option 3—conjunctive adverbs

There are many choices! This is the same as Option 2; however, the second sentence happens to begin with a transition word.

Independent Clause; as a result, for example, nevertheless, also, anyway, besides, certainly, consequently, finally, for instance, furthermore, however, in addition, in contrast, in fact, incidentally, indeed, in fact, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, next, now, of course, on the other hand, otherwise, similarly, still, then, therefore, thus, undoubtedly, 

Independent Clause.

Joining Sentences by Subordination

Option 4—dependent clause first

Dependent Clause, Independent Clause.

You must use a comma!

After, Although, As, As if, Because, Before, Even though, If, In order that, Since, So that, Though, Unless, Until, When, Whenever, Where, Whereas, Whether, While

NOTE: Capitalize these words because the dependent clause will begin a sentence.

Example: When he writes well, his teachers are pleased.

Option 5—dependent clause last

Independent Clause, Dependent Clause.

NOTE: No comma is needed here!

Example: She practices writing so that she can become a better student.

For more information, visit www.hagerstowncc.edu/lsc

Monday—Thursday 8 AM-10 PM
Friday 8 AM-5 PM
Saturday 9 AM-3 PM
Sunday 12-5 PM

There are many choices! Are you still confused?
Stop by LSC-100, the Learning Support Center!

All material comes from Along These Lines: Writing Sentences and Paragraphs, 5th edition by John Sheridan Biays

Writing handouts are available online at http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/lsc/