Coordination occurs if two independent clauses are linked together by coordinating conjunctions or conjunctive adverbs (see box below), resulting in a compound sentence. In a compound sentence, all clauses remain independent; they could stand on their own. Transitional phrases often link independent clauses as well.

If you use a coordinating conjunction to join two independent clauses, put a comma before the conjunction: Camilla loves children, so she wants to be a kindergarten teacher. If you use a conjunctive adverb or a transitional phrase, use a semicolon or a period before the adverb/transitional phrase and a comma after: Tom is not a morning person; therefore, he does not like to get up at 6:00 a.m.

Inappropriate coordination occurs if two clauses are linked together that have very little to do with each other: Portnoy hates it when the Monkey calls him at work, but he loves chopped liver.

Avoid excessive coordination, the stringing together of clauses with FANBOYS: Connie is a sturdy young woman with reddish brown hair, and she has been married to Clifford for three years, and Clifford is in a wheelchair, so Connie is sexually frustrated, and then she meets Mellors, and immediately the chemistry ignites, so they have an affair, but Clifford finds out, and the affair is over, yet Connie’s passion burns brightly.
Coordinating conjunctions: the FANBOYS: for (reason), and (addition), nor (negative choice), but (contrast), or (choice), yet (contrast), so (result or effect)

Conjunctive adverbs:
Addition: also, furthermore, moreover, besides, finally
Contrast: however, still, nevertheless, nonetheless, conversely, nonetheless, instead, otherwise, still
Comparison: similarly, likewise
Result or summary: therefore, thus, consequently, accordingly, hence, then
Time: next, then, meanwhile, finally, subsequently
Emphasis: indeed, certainly, specifically

Transitional Phrases:
Addition: in addition, equally important
Contrast: on the other hand, in contrast, at the same time, on the contrary, even so
Comparison: in the same way
Concession: of course, to be sure, certainly, granted, admittedly
Example: for example, for instance, as an illustration, namely, specifically, in fact
Summary/Result: in short, in brief, in summary, in conclusion, as a result, accordingly
Time/Ranking: first, second, third (…), next, finally, afterwards, meanwhile, subsequently, eventually, in the first place, at the same time,

►Did you like the sample sentences? Get the whole story in Philip Roth’s *Portnoy’s Complaint* and D. H. Lawrence’s *Lady Chatterley’s Lover.*