
Adverbial Conjunctions

Part A Defining and Using Adverbial Conjunctions

Part B Punctuating Adverbial Conjunctions

Part A Defining and Using Adverbial Conjunctions

This lesson will give you another method of joining ideas--by using a special kind of a *conjunction* and a *semicolon*.

This special kind of conjunction is called an *adverbial conjunction* because it is part *adverb* and part *conjunction*.

Here are some common adverbial conjunctions:

however
moreover
nevertheless
therefore

(1) (a) My cat washes herself every day; <i>however</i> , (b) she still has a funny smell.

- ◆ *However* contrasts ideas (a) and (b).
- ◆ The sentence might have been written, “My cat washes herself every day, but she still has a funny smell.”
- ◆ But *however* is stronger, more emphatic.
- ◆ Note the punctuation.

(2) (a) He received an A on his term paper; <i>moreover</i> , (b) the instructor exempted him from the final.
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- ◆ *Moreover* adds idea (b) to idea (a).
- ◆ The sentence might have been written, “He received an A on his term paper, *and* the instructor exempted him from the final.”
- ◆ But *moreover* is stronger, more emphatic.
- ◆ Note the punctuation.

(3) (a) He rarely seems to study; <i>nevertheless</i> ; (b) he always gets A’s

- ◆ *Nevertheless* shows that idea (b) is true in spite of idea (a).
- ◆ The sentence might have been written, “*Even though* he rarely seems to study, he always gets A’s.
- ◆ But *nevertheless* is stronger, more emphatic.
- ◆ Note the punctuation.

- (4) (a) The complete dictionary weighs thirty pounds; *therefore*,
(b) I bring my pocket edition to school.

- ◆ *Therefore* shows that idea (a) is the cause of idea (b).
- ◆ The sentence might have been written, “*Because* the complete dictionary weighs thirty pounds, I bring my pocket edition to school.”
- ◆ But *therefore* is stronger, more emphatic.
- ◆ Note the punctuation.

An adverbial conjunction joins ideas together in an emphatic way. It may be used with a semicolon only when both ideas are independent and can stand alone.

Part B Punctuating Adverbial Conjunctions

Note the punctuation pattern:

- (a) complete idea; adverbial conjunction, (b) complete idea

- ◆ The adverbial conjunction is preceded by a semicolon.
- ◆ It is followed by a comma.

Practice 1

Punctuate the sentences.

1. Steven says he rarely watches television; however, he knows the plot of every soap opera.
2. Jody is afraid of heights; nevertheless, she has applied for a job as a stunt woman.
3. Making clay pots is a marvelous hobby; moreover, it is not as difficult as most people think.
4. I absolutely refuse to iron; therefore, my dry-cleaning bills are high.
5. When the semester ended, Eloise had improved her spelling; moreover, she had become a reporter for the school paper.
6. Len is very nearsighted; however, he is too vain to wear glasses.
7. Debbie is highly allergic to bee stings; therefore, she always carries a first-aid kit.
8. The typists worked late every night this week; nevertheless, they must come into the office this Sunday.
9. Ben has always been fascinated by volcanoes; therefore, his shelf is filled with books on geology.
10. When you stop smoking, you will feel better; moreover, you will save a lot of money.
11. Her new boots are not waterproof therefore; she never, wears them in the snow.
12. The bank’s new savings plan offers high interest; moreover, the first thousand customers will receive electric toasters.

Practice 2

Add an adverbial conjunction and a second independent idea to each idea given to you. Then punctuate the entire sentence correctly.

1. The rock star was extremely popular ; **therefore, the concert hall was sold out.**
2. Siegfried gets only four hours of sleep every night; **however, he still manages to put in a full day's work.**
3. As a teen-ager Helen dreamed of traveling around the world ; **moreover, she thought that she would become famous.**
4. Many Americans have become aware of the energy crisis; **nevertheless, efforts to conserve energy are going slowly.**
5. When Arlene called, I was peeling carrots ; **therefore, I had to cut the conversation short.**

BE CAREFUL: Never use a semicolon when an adverbial conjunction does not join together two independent ideas:

(1) *However*, I don't like him.

(2) I don't, *however*, I like him.

(3) I don't like him, *however*.

- ◆ Why aren't semicolons used in sentences (1), (2), and (3)?
- ◆ These sentences contain only one independent idea; therefore, a semicolon cannot be used.

Never use a semicolon to join two ideas if one of the ideas is subordinate:

(4) If I were you, *however*, I would never talk to him gain.

- ◆ Are the two ideas of sentence (4) independent?
- ◆ *If I were you* cannot stand alone as an independent idea; therefore, a semicolon cannot be used.