

Senior Level 1

Linking independent clauses

Score: /20

Independent clauses are groups of words that express a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. Two closely related independent clauses can be linked together using a semicolon. For example: Half the group wants to watch a movie; the other half prefers to play a game.

Independent clauses can also be joined by a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb that clarifies the relationship between the two ideas. This is typically used when a comparison is being made or a cause and effect relationship is being described. In this case, the conjunctive adverb should always be followed by a comma. For example: Antonio was supposed to go to the dentist; however, he did not go.

Activity #1: Place a semicolon in the correct place in each of the sentences below. Remember that semicolons are used to link independent clauses.

1. Our team is wearing yellow jerseys their team is wearing blue jerseys.
2. Dolphins are very intelligent animals they are also quite playful.
3. He is mean to me he pushed me into a puddle and laughed.
4. Everyone says Tia is a genius she is the smartest girl in our class.
5. Tania cleaned the kitchen Maria tidied the bedrooms.
6. The group decided to see a movie they chose an action film.
7. My mom went to the grocery store she bought milk and eggs.
8. My family went camping we decided to stay all weekend.
9. Authors often prefer using word processors others write in notebooks.
10. My brother refused to go to school he was afraid of a bully in class.



Name: _____

Activity #2: Use a semicolon in place of the period to join the two independent clauses. Link them with a conjunctive adverb that best completes each sentence.

Select the conjunctive adverb from the list of options below. Beware, some of the choices are decoys!

however	instead	meanwhile	therefore	likewise
otherwise	similarly	moreover	besides	equally

1. I broke my leg. I can't play in the championship game.

2. Avery is going on vacation. I am staying at home.

3. Luis didn't eat any of the ice cream. He is allergic to dairy products.

4. Marco is a fantastic tap dancer. Rosie is a wonderful ballet performer.

5. My dad didn't order pizza from my favorite restaurant. He ordered from a new place.

