How to Perk Up Your Writing!

Part 1: Coordinate!

Combine two complete sentences with a **comma** and a **coordinating conjunction**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I was hungry.</th>
<th>I ate a sandwich.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Sentence</td>
<td>Complete Sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Coordinating Conjunctions:

- and
- but
- for
- yet
- or
- nor

Better yet, show relationship by using a **semicolon**, a **conjunctive adverb**, and a **comma**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I was hungry ; therefore , I ate a sandwich.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Sentence ; Conjunctive Adverb , Complete Sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Conjunctive Adverbs:

- also
- besides
- yet
- in fact
- instead
- however
- still
- as a result
- then
- in addition

Part 2: Subordinate!

This is to show a different kind of relationship between your two complete sentences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I ate a sandwich because I was hungry.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notice**: If the subordinate clause is the second half of the sentence (like above), then you **DON'T** need a comma.

Some Subordinating Conjunctions:

- after
- since
- so that
- although
- as if
- unless
- until
- if
- where
- while
- before
- because
- even though

You could also make the **subordinate clause** the first half of your sentence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Because I was hungry , I ate a sandwich.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subordinate Clause (sub. Conjunction &amp; sentence) , Complete Sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notice** that this time you **DO** need a **comma**.

As a final note, a common error among college students is to let the sentence that has the subordinating conjunction or coordinating conjunction stand by itself like **Because I was hungry** or **But I was hungry**. This is incorrect and makes your sentence a fragment. So, be careful with those conjunctions!

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