

Combining sentences – Coordinators and Sentence Connectors

*My sentences are short. They are simple. Each contains only one idea.
They cannot express complex thoughts. Short sentences get boring.
They are all alike. They make me sound like a small child.*

(from Meyers, *Gateways to Academic Writing*, Pearson Longman 2005, p. 308)

When writing a paragraph or an essay, you need to have some variety in your sentences; otherwise, they will sound like the short paragraph above. One way of making sentences more interesting is to connect short sentences to make longer ones. You can do this by using **coordinators**.

The most useful coordinators are:

and – connects two ideas

but – connects two opposite ideas, shows contrast

or – shows an alternative or choice

so – shows a result

Exercise 1 – complete the following sentences with the correct coordinator

1. I like pizza, _____ I don't like lahmacun.
2. I passed the final proficiency exam, _____ next year I can begin my undergraduate degree.
3. This weekend we can go to the park, _____ we can go to the cinema.
4. My brother is tall, _____ he is also very skinny.

Instead of coordinators, you can also use other words called **sentence connectors**. Sentence connectors and coordinators have similar meanings, but are used in different ways.

Coordinators come in the middle of a sentence, while sentence connectors are used at the beginning of a new sentence, or after a semicolon.

For example:

I like pizza, *but* I don't like lahmacun. -----> I like pizza. *However*, I don't like lahmacun.

Or

I like pizza; *however*, I don't like lahmacun.

Exercise 2 – Match the sentence connectors to the coordinators with a similar meaning

SENTENCE CONNECTORS

however	otherwise	hence	therefore	nevertheless
consequently	furthermore	thus	also	nonetheless
accordingly	besides	moreover		

COORDINATORS

and - _____	but - _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

or - _____	so - _____

Exercise 3 – Complete the following sentences:

1. I failed the exam. Consequently, _____.
2. Istanbul is famous for its historical buildings. Furthermore, _____
_____.
3. Einstein was not a very good student at school. However, _____
_____.
4. My mother is a fantastic cook. Besides, _____
_____.
5. Galatasaray beat Fenerbahçe in the Turkish Super Cup. Therefore, _____
_____.
6. English grammar can be very difficult. Moreover, _____
_____.
7. I have to get up very early tomorrow. Otherwise, _____
_____.
8. I have had my dog for eight years. Hence, _____.
9. My little brother can be very annoying. Nevertheless, _____
_____.
10. There is a lot of traffic in Istanbul. Thus, _____
_____.
11. My sister is very good at tennis. Also, _____
_____.
12. Tom is a very busy man. Nonetheless, _____.
13. The manager of this company works extremely hard. Accordingly,
_____.

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. but 2. so 3. or 4. and

Exercise 2

and: furthermore, besides, also, moreover

but: however, nevertheless, nonetheless

or: otherwise

so: hence, therefore, consequently, thus, accordingly

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