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