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جامعة الموصل
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القسم: الترجمة

Varying Sentence Structure

Writing Simple,
Compound, and Complex
Sentences

Part One

By

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Why is it important to vary sentence structure?

- ✎ Too many simple sentences can make your writing sound choppy.
- ✎ Too many long (compound and complex) sentences can make your writing difficult to follow.
- ✎ Therefore, you should vary your sentences by making some long and others short.
- ✎ It will help make your writing interesting and coherent.

What are some common ways to structure a sentence?

Simple Sentence

- ✎ A **simple sentence** contains a subject and a verb.
- ✎ It expresses a single, complete thought.
- ✎ A simple sentence is an **independent clause**.

What?

- ✎ An **independent clause** is a clause that can stand alone. It is a group of words that contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
- ✎ An independent clause is a sentence.

Example of a Simple Sentence

📞 The cell phone rang right before class.

📖 What is the subject?

📖 What is the verb?

Compound Sentence

📞 It is a sentence that joins two independent clauses together with a coordinating conjunction or semicolon.

Formula

📖 Compound Sentence =

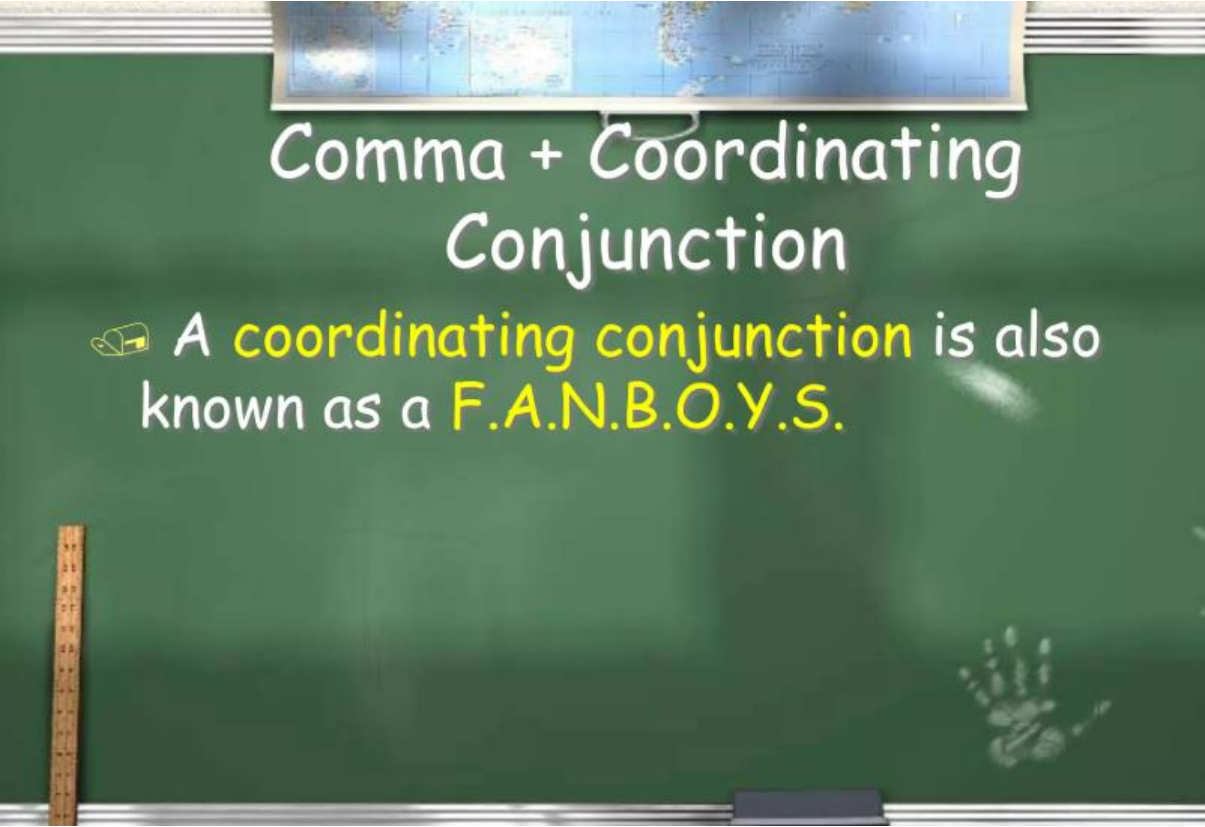
Independent Clause + Independent Clause

Combining Clauses

📖 There are two ways to combine independent clauses to make a **compound sentence**:

📖 Comma + Coordinating Conjunction

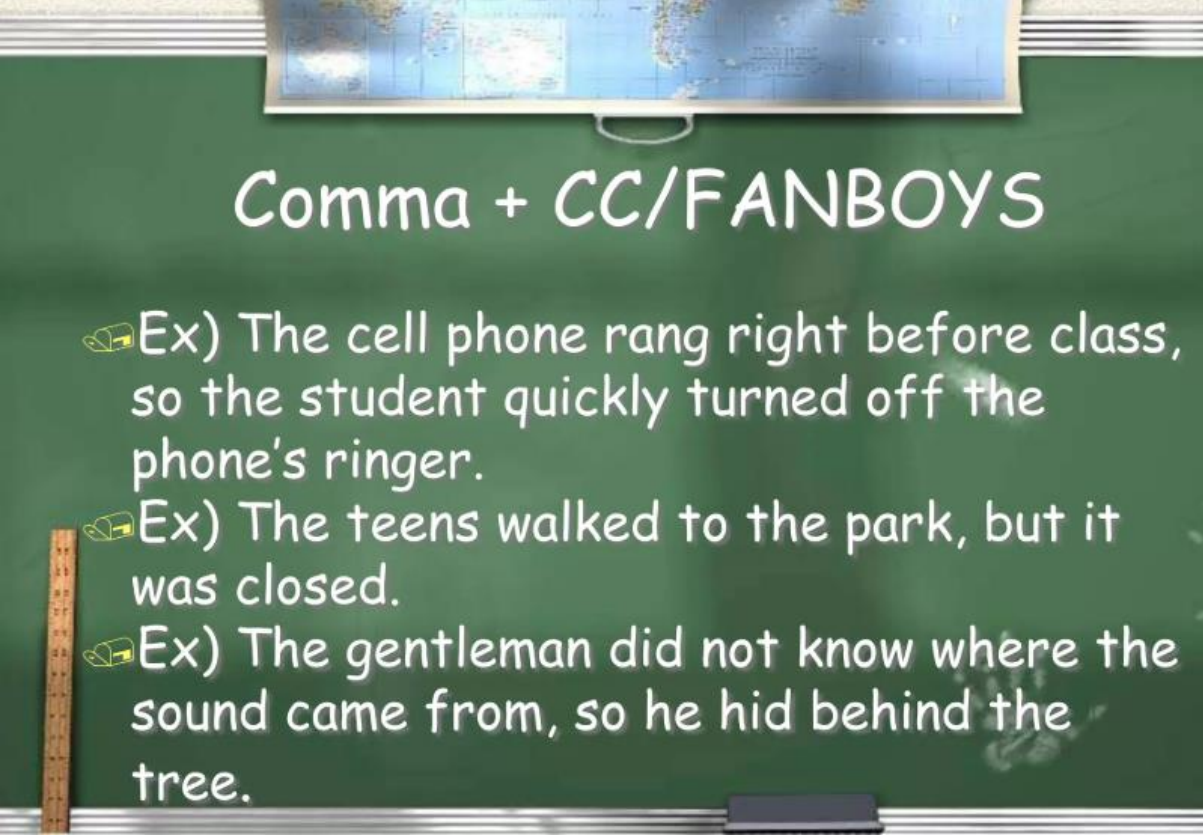
📖 Semicolon



Comma + Coordinating Conjunction

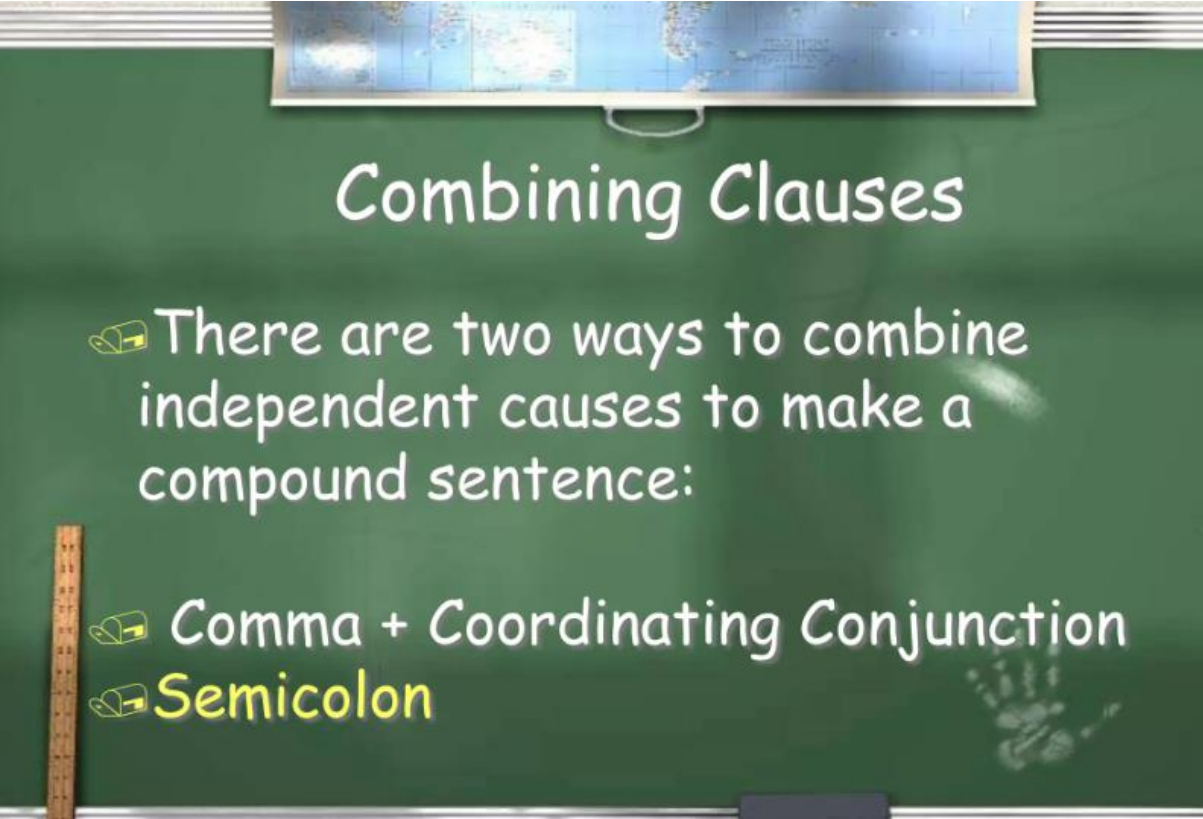
 A **coordinating conjunction** is also known as a **F.A.N.B.O.Y.S.**

 **F**or
 **A**nd
 **N**or
 **B**ut
 **O**r
 **Y**et
 **S**o



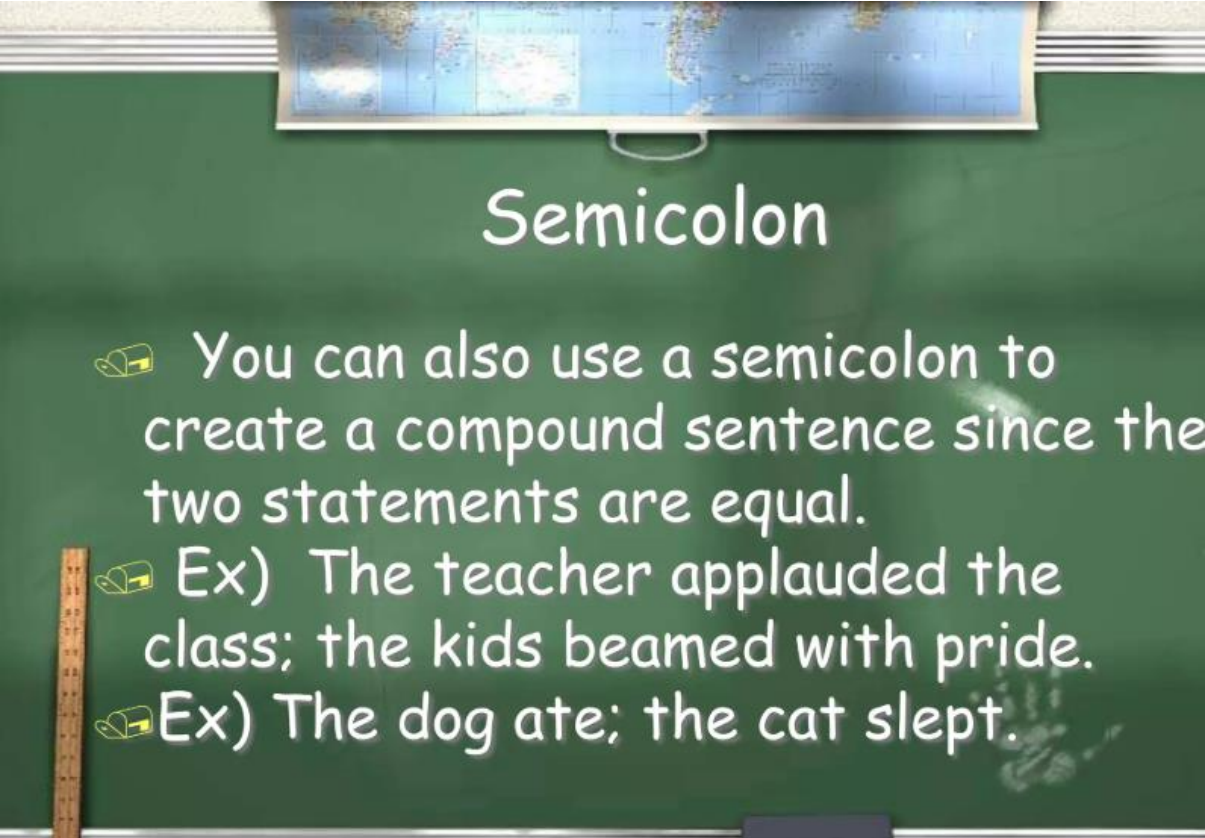
Comma + CC/FANBOYS

- 📖 Ex) The cell phone rang right before class, so the student quickly turned off the phone's ringer.
- 📖 Ex) The teens walked to the park, but it was closed.
- 📖 Ex) The gentleman did not know where the sound came from, so he hid behind the tree.



Combining Clauses

- 📖 There are two ways to combine independent clauses to make a compound sentence:
 - 📖 Comma + Coordinating Conjunction
 - 📖 **Semicolon**

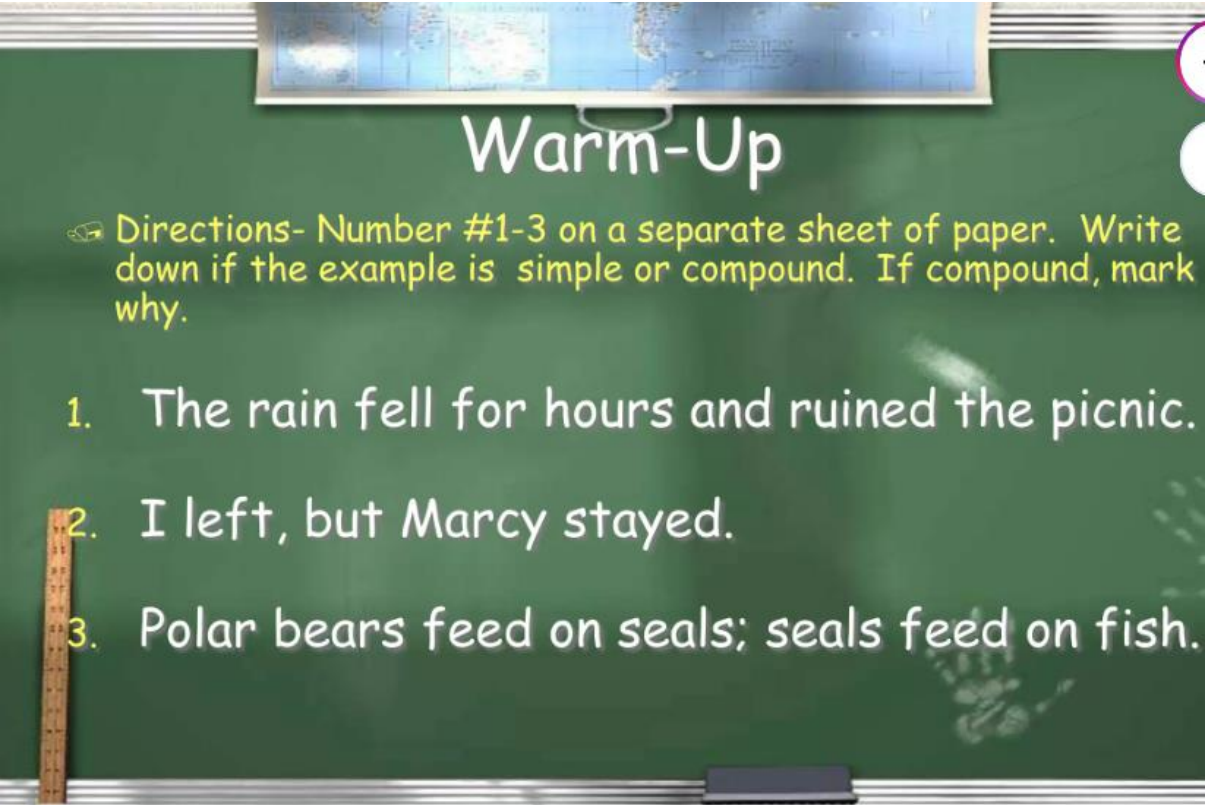


Semicolon

✎ You can also use a semicolon to create a compound sentence since the two statements are equal.

✎ Ex) The teacher applauded the class; the kids beamed with pride.

✎ Ex) The dog ate; the cat slept.



Warm-Up

✎ Directions- Number #1-3 on a separate sheet of paper. Write down if the example is simple or compound. If compound, mark why.

1. The rain fell for hours and ruined the picnic.

2. I left, but Marcy stayed.

3. Polar bears feed on seals; seals feed on fish.

Warm-Up

 Directions- Copy the sentence. Mark as simple or compound. If compound, mark why.

1. Female penguins usually stay at sea, but they return when their eggs hatch.
2. Roses, carnations, and violets were growing in the garden.
3. The sun rose; the air did not feel warm.

Warm-Up

 Directions- Create a compound sentence by joining the two independent clauses using a coordinating conjunction or a semicolon.

1. I'm driving to the office in an hour. I'll pick up the supplies on the way.
2. Dorothy likes white water rafting. She also enjoys kayaking.
3. I planned to go to the hockey game. I couldn't get tickets.