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SSC - 245

Conjunctive Adverbs

Overview: Transitional expressions help your writing flow smoothly. One type of transitional expression, the **conjunctive adverb**, is used to link ideas that contain similar subjects or emphases. A conjunctive adverb can be used at the beginning of a sentence, in the middle of a sentence, or to join two sentences.

1. When you begin a sentence with a **conjunctive adverb**, follow it with a comma.

Example: The weather is beautiful today. **Therefore**, I think I'll ride my bike to the beach.

2. When you interrupt a sentence with a **conjunctive adverb**, use a comma before *and* after it to set it off from the rest of the sentence.

Example: The weather is beautiful today. I think, **therefore**, I'll ride my bike to the beach.

3. When you link two independent clauses (two complete sentences) with a **conjunctive adverb**, use a semi-colon before the conjunctive adverb and a comma after it.

Example: The weather is beautiful today; **therefore**, I think I'll ride my bike to the beach.

Note: Many writers make the mistake of using a conjunctive adverb and a comma to link two complete sentences, but this creates a comma splice, which is considered a major error in sentence structure.

Incorrect: The weather is beautiful today, **therefore**, I think I'll ride my bike to the beach.

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Here is a list of common conjunctive adverbs:

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><u>To show addition</u> again also besides finally further furthermore moreover</p> | <p><u>To show contrast</u> anyway however instead nevertheless otherwise contrarily conversely nonetheless</p> | <p><u>To show time</u> meanwhile next then now thereafter</p> | <p><u>To show result</u> accordingly consequently hence henceforth therefore thus incidentally subsequently</p> |
| <p><u>To show a specific case</u> namely specifically</p> | <p><u>To show comparison</u> likewise similarly</p> | <p><u>To strengthen a point</u> indeed</p> | <p><u>To return to your point after conceding</u> still nevertheless</p> |
| <p><u>To recognize a point adjacent to your main point:</u> certainly, undoubtedly</p> | | | |

Practice: A conjunctive adverb creates a smooth transition between two ideas with similar emphases. Read a paragraph or two of your own writing, and locate two simple sentences that might be more effective if joined together by a conjunctive adverb. Rewrite the sentences using an appropriate conjunctive adverb. Remember, however, to avoid overusing them. Always try to use a variety of sentence types to keep your writing interesting.

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