

ADVERBIAL CONJUNCTIONS

Adverbial conjunctions are a type of “transition” word that, as their name suggests, function as both adverbs and conjunctions. They work as conjunctions because they link independent clauses, but they also work as adverbs because they convert the clause they introduce into a description of the verb phrase in the previous clause. In the following sentence, for instance, “therefore” is the adverbial conjunction that links the two independent clauses. As such, the second independent clause that begins with “therefore” describes Mary’s *understanding* of how to use adverbial conjunctions properly.

- “Mary understood the proper use of adverbial conjunctions; therefore, she scored well on her grammar quiz.”

List of adverbial conjunctions

accordingly	furthermore	meanwhile	similarly
also	hence	moreover	still
besides	however	nevertheless	subsequently
consequently	indeed	next	then
conversely	instead	nonetheless	therefore
finally	likewise	otherwise	thus

Adverbial conjunctions can be used to illustrate a connection between two independent clauses, but because they are not coordinating conjunctions (for/and/nor/but/or/yet/so: FANBOYS), **they cannot be used to link those two independent clauses as a single sentence.** Using only a comma to separate two independent clauses is a grammatical error known as a comma splice.

- **Incorrect/Comma Splice:** Tom did a good job identifying the relevant facts, however, his analysis was a bit flawed.

Due to the fact that adverbial clauses illustrate a relationship between clauses, semicolons are often used to link those clauses, but using a period would also be correct.

- **Correct:** Tom did a good job identifying the relevant facts; however, his analysis was a bit flawed.
- **Also Correct:** Tom did a good job identifying the relevant facts. However, his analysis was a bit flawed.

Adverbial conjunctions can appear at the beginning, middle, or end of an independent clause. Use a comma after the adverbial conjunction if it begins a sentence:

- “Nonetheless, I agree with the defense’s argument.”

Use commas around an adverbial conjunction if it appears between the subject and main verb in a sentence:

- “I, nonetheless, agree with the defense’s argument.”

Use a comma after an adverbial conjunction if it ends a sentence:

- I agree with the defense's argument, nonetheless.

* If the adverbial conjunction appears in the middle or end of your sentence and is a “weak” interruption (meaning it does not require emphasis), you do not need to use the comma or commas to offset it from you independent clause. This choice is one left to the writer's preference.

**While all three positions are grammatically correct, the first two are generally preferred.

Lists of conjunctive adverbs organized by purpose:

- **Addition:** again, also, besides, finally, further, furthermore, additionally, moreover
- **Contrast:** however, instead, nevertheless, contrarily, conversely, nonetheless
- **Time:** meanwhile, next, then, now, thereafter
- **Result:** accordingly, consequently, hence, henceforth, therefore, thus, subsequently
- **Specificity:** namely, specifically
- **Comparison:** likewise, similarly
- **Confirmation:** indeed
- **Recognition:** undoubtedly, certainly
- **Return to argument after a concession:** still, nevertheless