A **COMPOUND SENTENCE** is composed of two simple sentences joined by either a semicolon, or a comma with a coordinating conjunction, showing a clear connection between equal ideas. You might imagine this relationship between sentences as items on either side of a balance scale:

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| sentence | sentence |
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Each sentence retains its completeness, but by physically connecting them, the writer encourages the reader to see the relationship between the ideas expressed in them.

1. **SEMICOLON**: The semicolon acts as a sort of sturdy bolt for joining sentences. A writer would choose this connection if the two sentences to be joined are so clearly related that the reader will automatically get the connection.

   Pirates drink rum; it helps them get their sea legs.

   Pirates are expert sailors; they swarm up the rigging and unfurl the sails.

2. **COMMA & COORDINATING CONJUNCTION**: A writer will choose the comma and coordinating conjunction to indicate HOW the ideas are related. Each coordinating conjunction does a different job: *And* asks the reader to join the two ideas, whereas *so* indicates a cause/effect relationship, etc.

   The island was dangerous, **so** the pirates moved in.
   (The pirates chose the island because of its dangerous nature.)

   The island was dangerous, **yet** the pirates moved in.
   (The pirates moved in despite the dangerous nature of the island.)

   The island was dangerous, **for** the pirates had moved in.
   (The dangerous nature of the island is a result of the pirate occupation.)

A mnemonic device (memory trick) for remembering the coordinating conjunctions is the acronym **FANBOYS**:

For
And
Nor
But
Or
Yet
So
3. **CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS**: This third way of legally joining two complete sentences, just like the comma with coordinating conjunction, gives the reader a stronger sense of how the two ideas are related.

The correct punctuation for these connectors is

Sentence; conjunctive adverb, sentence.

In essence, these two sentences are being joined by the semicolon, with the conjunctive adverb acting as a transition from the first idea into the second.

The *Pirate Queen was* suspicious of the clever thief; *as a result, she buried* the gold coins.

The *Pirate Queen was* ruthless; *however, she had* a soft spot for clever thieves.

The clever thief was *supposed to walk* the plank; *instead, he escaped* with the gold.

Below is a list* of common conjunctive adverbs:

- accordingly
- additionally
- again
- almost
- anyway
- as a result
- besides
- certainly
- comparatively
- consequently
- contrarily
- conversely
- elsewhere
- equally
- eventually
- finally
- further
- furthermore
- hence
- henceforth
- however
- in addition
- in comparison
- in contrast
- in fact
- incidentally
- indeed
- instead
- just as
- likewise
- meanwhile
- moreover
- namely
- nevertheless
- next
- nonetheless
- notably
- now
- otherwise
- rather
- similarly
- still
- subsequently
- that is
- then
- thereafter
- therefore
- thus
- undoubtedly
- uniquely
- on the other hand

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