COMBINING SENTENCES

Combining sentences clarifies the relationships between ideas and creates a much more focused sentence. This makes the sentence smoother and more concise.

Two sentences can only be combined if each is a complete sentence and if both sentences are related in thought. If they are not related, the resulting sentence will not make sense.

**EX.** My dog is a poodle.
   It rained yesterday.
   *My dog is a poodle and it rained yesterday.*

Each sentence must have a subject and a predicate. If not, it will again result in a sentence that will not make sense.

**EX.** My dog is a poodle.
   Plays with the frisbee.
   *My dog is a poodle plays with the frisbee.*

If complete sentences are combined incorrectly, the result will be a run-on sentence or a comma splice.

**EX.** Run-on sentence: *Jane likes to dance it was her pastime.*
   Comma splice: *The boy threw his hat, then he stomped on it.*

HOW TO CORRECTLY COMBINE TWO SENTENCES

I. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction such as *and, or, nor, yet, but, so*, etc.
   My dog is a poodle.
   She is the most beautiful one around.
   *My dog is a poodle, and she is the most beautiful one around.*

II. Use a semicolon.
   *My dog is a poodle; she is the most beautiful one around.*

III. Use a semicolon and conjunctive adverb such as *however, moreover, nevertheless, therefore, consequently, of course, in fact, indeed*, etc.
   *My dog is a poodle; however, she is not very small.*
   **NOTE:** the conjunctive adverb will always be followed by a comma.

IV. Create a subordinate clause using *because, although, even though, as*, etc. and a comma to create a complex relationship.
   *Although my dog is a poodle, she is the most beautiful dog around.*

Practice sentences

1. The pitcher looked at the batter. He felt the ball in his glove. Then he glanced at the runner on first.
2. The drip continued in our sink. It kept me awake all night long.
3. The soldier was out of touch with his family for years. He put his faith in his commander's leadership. He never once rebelled against his authority.