



## Features of Punctuation Signs in English Compound Sentences

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**Abstract:** *The article analyses problems of punctuation and the use of signs or symbols in sentences, also the significance of punctuation in parataxic clauses. As well as some rules and problems related to punctuation are analyzed. In addition, some examples taken from the works of several famous English writers are analyzed. In conclusion, proper solutions are found and explained.*

**Keywords:** *English grammar, punctuation, compound sentences, history of punctuation, types of signs, grammatical connection, and rules.*

“Punctuation is the notation in the sheet music of our words, telling us when to rest or to raise our voices. It acknowledges that the meaning of our discourse, as of any symphonic composition, lies not in the units, but in the pauses pacing and the parasing.[7.1]

One of the main elements in compound sentences is punctuation. A compound sentences have at least two independent clauses; they separated by punctuation signs or a comma and a coordinating conjunction. Punctuation helps clarify relationships between these clauses and ensures the reader understands the intended meaning in all sentences. Scientists investigated the important issues in general English linguistics. Jane Straus, Lester Kaufman, Tom Stern, Bryan A.Garner, Erica Meltzer, David Crystal, Lynne Truss, Sh.D.Richson and others wrote several scientific works related to punctuation.

The earliest known example of punctuation comes from the Mesha Stele, also called the Moabite Stone. This 9th century Canaanite stone told the story of the god of Moab. There are dots and lines separating words and sections. Punctuation only increased slightly over the next few centuries. By about the 5th century BC, the Greeks occasionally used a dot-system punctuation. These were speech marks that told oral performers where to pause. Later, the Greeks also began to use paragraph marks and an ancient form of quotation marks. In Asia, the earliest punctuation dates from the 3rd century BC. Some Chinese writing from this era had marks for full stops and ends of chapters. Punctuation evolved as language, writing, and printing technology changed to give us our modern punctuation marks in English. Punctuation serves as a road map for us guiding through the intricacies of our compound sentences. Clarity and coherence are key, so we should use punctuation effectively to ensure our message is conveyed accurately. Two independent clauses are joined by coordinating conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs. We can call them “short linkers” and “long linkers”. There are only seven short linkers.

Short linkers	Long linkers
put a comma in front of that linkers	put semicolon in front of that linkers
<b>For</b>	<b>Consequently</b>
<b>And</b>	<b>Therefore</b>
<b>Nor</b>	<b>However</b>

<b>But</b> <b>Or</b> <b>Yet</b> <b>So</b>	<b>Nevertheless</b> <b>Thus</b> <b>Hence</b> <b>In fact</b>
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There are some rules about punctuation in English grammar. First rule: When two independent clauses are joined by a short linker, put a comma in front of that linker.

For example: "The widow she cried over me, **and** she called me a lot of other names, too, **but** she never meant no harm by it". [1.8]

Second rule: When two independent clauses are joined by a long linker, put a semicolon in front of that linker and a comma behind it.

For example: "It's a word that's made up out in the Greek *ORGO*, outside, open, abroad; the Hebrew *JEESUM*, to plant, cover up; hence, in *TER*". [1.261]

Third rule: Two independent clauses may be linked only by a semicolon. When only semicolon is used to link independent clauses are thoroughly parallel in structure and word choice.

For example: "Her face would give them a hint, sure; they've got the money, and they'd slide right out and get away with it". [1.274]

As one authority observes "Most errors of punctuation arise from ill-designed, badly shaped sentences and from the attempt to make them work by means of violent tricks with commas and colons". [2.167]

We may do some punctuational mistakes in compound sentences:

For example, *Math is a pain grammar is worse*. (note the absence of a linking word and punctuation).

The example above is a *fused sentence*. A fused sentence occurs when two independent clauses are smooshed together with no punctuation and no linking word.

The second example: *Math is a pain, grammar is worse*. (This is a little better. At least we have something between the independent clauses, but it's not enough).

This example is a *comma splice*. A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are joined together with a comma, but no linking word.

The next example: *Math is a pain and grammar is worse*. (now we have a linking word but no punctuation).

The sentence above is a *run-on*. A run-on occurs when two independent clauses are joined together with a linking word but no punctuation.

A comma is placed between parts of a complex sentence connected by conjunctions: connecting (and yes in meaning and adversative (however, the same, but, otherwise, not, neither... nor); separating (or, either, whether ... whether, then ... then, not those ... not that); connecting (and, too, also); explanatory (that is, namely).

If parts of a compound sentence are significantly common or have commas inside them, then between them put a semicolon (before alliances but in the meaning of "and" only when they connect parts that would otherwise be separated by a dot).

For example, Almost every evening later they went somewhere out of town to Oreanda or to a waterfall; And the walk was a success, the impressions were invariably beautiful, majestic every time, I had only blue paint, but, despite this, I started to draw a hunt. I heard that he was crying, but I must tell you that Azamat was a stubborn boy, and nothing happened to knock his tears out, even when he was younger.

If in second part compound sentence contains an unexpected attachment or a sharp contrast to the first part, then between them dash is used instead of comma: “But pretty soon they see that long-legged undertaker make a sign to the preacher as much as to say, “Don’t you worry - just depend on me”.[1.281]

In coming paragraphs, we will analyse types of punctuation marks.

Punctuation marks	Example guidelines
Comma (,)	Use a comma in a series of more than two sequential items. A,B, and C use commas according to The Chicago Manual of Style. This mark is the slightest possible separation in ideas or grammatical construction – especially between words, phrases and clauses.
Colon (:)	Avoid colons except at the end of a command or when showing an example Example: Enter the name of the computer: The colon is the most commonly either marks an introduction or enumeration or signals apposition or equality to connect one clause with another one that explains the first. It is also used sometimes as the equivalent of a dash, and it has some specialized uses as a notation after a formal salutation and in certain types of citations.
Semicolon (;)	Semicolons create long, complex sentences and should be avoided in user interface text
Question mark (?)	Use question marks when the user action is directly related to a question Do you want to continue? How do you want to configure this computer?
Period (.)	Use a period(.) at the end of a complete sentence
Exclamation mark (!)	Do not use exclamation marks in the user interface text. Instead, use the caution icon at the beginning of a sentence
Ellipsis (...)	Use the ellipsis(...) to indicate that more information or another option will follow
Dash (-)	Use dashes only when needed to set off an explanation, example, or comment from the main thought of a sentence. Do not use a dash to hyphenate words
Parentheses()	Use the sign only as needed. Put a period inside the mark if it is a complete sentence.
Slash (/)	Use the slash as needed to indicate a path. Do not use and/or

These signs help to reveal the literal meaning of the sentences. As shown in the table above, their function is also different. Punctuation marks create the tone of works of art and they play main role in perfectly revealing the meaning of the work. As Bryan A.Garner says, “Punctuation is an elaborate cuing system by which writers signal to their readers how to move smoothly through the prose”. [3.345]. We can agree with this opinion, because writers reveal the full meaning and tone of their works by appropriate use of punctuation marks. A single punctuation sign in each sentence may

be performing an important function. Every punctuation mark has at least one specific purpose in the English language. These form crucial elements of grammar. Punctuation isn't optional, especially in formal writing. Of course, sometimes people omit punctuation in informal writing. But this makes it hard to read. Without punctuation, you run the risk of losing your intended meaning, which leads to miscommunication. If the punctuation of the works is not analysed and the marks are used incorrectly, it will significantly affect the content of the work. In general, we can say that punctuation is integral to the imagery and content of the work.

In conclusion, punctuations in English sentences are very important to convey meaning of the complex sentences. All these punctuation marks they have their own ways of usage in the sentences. The symbols we use to mark pauses, tone, and more are a vital part of good writing. Punctuation has a long history, and it continues to evolve as our language changes.

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