Use conjunctive adverbs to join independent clauses and show the logical connection between them. Conjunctive adverbs provide logic similar to coordinating and subordinating conjunctions but are generally more formal. Some of the most common conjunctive adverbs are listed below (followed in parentheses by the coordinating and subordinating conjunctions with similar meanings).

- accordingly
- afterward (after)
- also (and)
- otherwise (or)
- besides (and)
- therefore (so)
- consequently (so)
- for example
- as a result (for, since, because)
- hence (so, since, because)
- thus (so)
- however (but, yet, although, even though)
- consequently (so)
- for example
- as a result (for, since, because)
- hence (so, since, because)
- thus (so)
- however (but, yet, although, even though)
- consequently (so)
- for example
- as a result (for, since, because)
- hence (so, since, because)
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- for example
- as a result (for, since, because)
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- however (but, yet, although, even though)
- consequently (so)
- for example
- as a result (for, since, because)
- hence (so, since, because)
- thus (so)
- however (but, yet, although, even though)
- consequently (so)
- for example
- as a result (for, since, because)
- hence (so, since, because)
- thus (so)
- however (but, yet, although, even though)

1. The rule for using conjunctive adverbs is straightforward: when joining two independent clauses with a conjunctive adverb, place a semicolon before the conjunctive adverb and a comma after it:

   ; therefore,  
   ; moreover,  
   ; consequently,

   Independent clause; however, independent clause.

   ; then,  
   ; for example,  
   ; nevertheless,

   Example:

   Independent clause; conj. adv., ind. clause
   Ferrets make good pets; however, weasels do not.

2. A new sentence can also begin with a conjunctive adverb. Remember, to place a comma after the conjunctive adverb:

   . Therefore,  
   . Moreover,  
   . Consequently,

   Independent clause. However, independent clause.

   . Then,  
   . For example,  
   . Nevertheless,

   Examples:

   Independent clause Conj. adv., ind. clause
   Ferrets make good pets. However, weasels do not.

3. When a conjunctive adverb appears at the end of a sentence, a comma precedes it:

   , therefore.  
   , moreover.  
   , consequently.

   Independent clause; independent clause, however.

   , then.

   Examples:

   Independent clause ind. clause, conj. adv.
   Ferrets make good pets; weasels do not, however.
Sentence Variety V: Conjunctive Adverbs

4. When a conjunctive adverb interrupts, or appears within, an independent clause, commas both precede and follow it:
   , therefore,
   , moreover,
   , consequently,

   Independent clause; independent, however, clause.
   , then,
   , for example,
   , nevertheless,

Examples:

Ferrets make good pets; weasels, however, do not.

Because conjunctive adverbs often make sentences sound more formal, they typically are used in formal writing situations, such as research papers, letters of application, and essay exams.

Practice 1

Directions: Write three new sentences on a separate sheet of paper that add an independent clause to the one provided using the conjunctive adverb given. Each sentence set should have one sentence with the conjunctive adverb before the independent clause, one after, and one within the sentence. All sentences should be logical and use all punctuation demonstrated in the examples above.

Ex. Use “as a result” to add a new independent clause to this sentence: Jimmy failed his biology course.

   (before) Jimmy failed his biology course; as a result, he had to change majors.
   (after) Jimmy failed his biology course; he had to change majors, as a result.
   (within) Jimmy failed his biology course; he, as a result, had to change majors.

1. Use “however” to add a new independent clause to this sentence: Fire destroyed the barn.

2. Use “therefore” to add a new independent clause to this sentence: Shelly realized her Siamese cat was missing.

3. Use “then” to add a new independent clause to this sentence: Jerry handed the clerk twenty dollars.

4. Use “consequently” to add a new independent clause to this sentence: The man arrested for burglary and assault was found guilty.

5. Use “nevertheless” to add a new independent clause to this sentence: He did not yell.

Practice 2

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, write ten sentences, each using a different conjunctive adverb. In two of the sentences, the conjunctive adverb must appear after a semicolon and before the independent clause; in two, the conjunctive adverb must begin a new sentence; in two, the conjunctive adverb must follow the independent clause; and in two, the conjunctive adverb must interrupt the independent clause.