A compound sentence is one that includes at least two independent clauses. An incorrectly punctuated compound sentence can lead to run-on or fused sentence errors, as well as comma splice errors.

Incorrect fused: Some students want an education others simply want a degree.
Incorrect comma splice: Some students want an education, others simply want a degree.

You can avoid these errors by choosing one of three ways to create correctly punctuated compound sentences: use a semicolon, use a coordinating conjunction, or use a conjunctive adverb.

**semicolon:** Use no conjunction but place a semicolon between the two independent clauses:
Correct: Some students want an education; others simply want a degree.

**co-ordinating conjunction:** To connect and indicate the relationship between the independent clauses, use coordinating conjunctions such as and, or, but, for, nor, yet, and so. Insert a comma before the conjunction.
Correct: Some students want an education, but others simply want a degree.

**conjunctive adverb:** To indicate the relationship between the two independent clauses, use a conjunctive adverb, placing a semicolon before the conjunction and a comma after it.
Correct: Some students want an education; however, others simply want a degree.

**Conjunctive adverbs include the following:**

- moreover
- however
- therefore
- besides
- nevertheless
- as a result
- furthermore
- instead
- consequently
- in addition
- on the contrary
- thus
- indeed
- on the other hand
- in conclusion
- in fact
- otherwise
- in other words
- similarly
- in contrast
- of course
- certainly
- for example
- then
- meanwhile
- for instance
- first, second, third
- finally
- to illustrate
- next
- that

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