Correlative conjunctions:

- neither, nor, both, and, whether, or

*Either* finish your homework *or* forget the trip to the mall.

*I will go not only to France this summer but also to England in the fall.*

Correlative conjunctions are not separated by punctuation.

**General Information**

A *comma splice* refers to two sentences joined only by a comma and without a coordinating conjunction.

A *run-on* refers to two sentences joined only by a coordinating conjunction and without a comma before it.

A *fused sentence* refers to two sentences that are joined with nothing between them.

For more information, see *The Everyday Writer*, 3rd Edition, Section 22a (pages 187-188).
Options for coordinating two sentences.

A comma and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, for, so, yet, nor):

Ann Landers is an advice columnist, and her twin sister also writes an advice column.

Mike looked for the way out of the cave, but he couldn’t remember which tunnel to take.

Are you coming to the movies with us, or are you going to the mall with them?

The actors were all more nervous than usual before a play, for they had heard that the President and First Lady were in the audience.

Jeanette felt she had very poor public speaking skills, so she signed up for a non-credit speech course in order to practice.

I couldn’t get into the class, yet I needed it to graduate.

The first taxicab did not stop for us, nor did any of the other four that passed us in the next hour.

A semicolon followed by a conjunctive adverb or transitional phrase and a comma:

Downsizing strikes fear in workers; however, it generally means prosperity for stockholders.

Children naturally imitate adults; therefore, responsible adults control their actions in front of children.

Paul seemed ready for the game; on the other hand, Jeff was anything but ready.

Janet failed the entrance exam; as a result, she had to postpone her dream of attending college for at least another year.

Some common conjunctive adverbs:

- accordingly
- meanwhile
- also
- moreover
- besides
- nevertheless
- certainly
- next
- consequently
- nonetheless
- conversely
- otherwise
- finally
- similarly
- furthermore
- specifically
- hence
- still
- however
- subsequently
- incidentally
- then
- instead
- therefore
- indeed
- thus
- likewise

A semicolon without a conjunctive adverb or transitional phrase:

The questions seemed harmless; the answers proved otherwise.

The crowd fell silent; the gasping player lay under the basket, writhing in pain.

A colon:

A colon means “that is” and is used between two sentences when the second sentence explains the first.

The war on drugs is over: drugs won.

Jim lived by the “Golden Rule”: do unto others as you want them to do unto you.

Some common transitional phrases:

- after all
- in fact
- even so
- as a result
- at any rate
- for instance
- in addition
- on the other hand
- by the way
- as a matter of fact
- in other words
- for example
- in the first place
- on the contrary
- at the same time
- at any rate
- in the first place
- for example
- in addition
- on the other hand