

Advanced 1
Unit 2 Language Focus 3
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Combining Two Independent Clauses

There are 3 ways to combine two independent clauses into one sentence:

➤ **Semicolon**

Nothing is true; everything is permitted.

The project has not been successful; the company intends to continue with it.

➤ **Comma + Fanboys (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)**

Nothing is true, so everything is permitted.

The project has not been successful, but the company intends to continue with it.

➤ **Semicolon + therefore, however, nevertheless, ... + Comma**

Nothing is true; therefore, everything is permitted.

The project has not been successful; however, the company intends to continue with it.

Comma Splice: The mistake of combining two independent clauses by using only a comma

Example:

✗ The rate of inflation was high; the Central Bank increased the rate of interest.

✓ The rate of inflation was high, the Central Bank increased the rate of interest.

✓ The rate of inflation was high, so the Central Bank increased the rate of interest.

✓ The rate of inflation was high; therefore, the Central Bank increased the rate of interest.

Run-On: The mistake of combining two independent clauses without using any punctuation marks

Example:

✗ The exam was hard the students got good grades.

✓ The exam was hard; the students got good grades.

✓ The exam was hard, but the students got good grades.

✓ The exam was hard; however, the students got good grades.

Source:

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