Combining Sentences Rules

Rule 1:
Different Subjects - Same Predicate

When two people or things do the same thing, try to tell about it in one sentence.

If you use I as part of a combined subject, put I last.

Example:

Rule 2:
Different Predicates - Same Subject

If you have one person doing more than one thing, then place the verbs in a string.

Example:

Rule 3:
Repeated Words

Example:

Rule 4:
Sometimes one sentence will do in place of two.

Example:

Rule 5:
Using phrases in sentences lets you say more - with less.

Example:

Rule 6:
When sentences are related they may be turned into a compound sentence by adding a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

If you wanted to combine two sentences and show a cause and effect relationship, one way you could do it would be to use a **coordinating conjunction**. These are the connecting words <u>for</u>, <u>and</u>, <u>nor</u>, <u>but</u>, <u>or</u>, <u>yet</u>, and <u>so</u>. One way to remember all of them is to call them "**FANBOYS**." In most cases, they will be preceded by a comma.

Example:

Rule 7:
Short choppy sentences may be turned into complex sentences by turning one sentence into a phrase and adding a subordinating conjunction.

Try using some of these words when building complex sentences:

after	if
before	since
though	unless
until	when
although	while
because	
whenever	

Example:

Rule 8:
You may join two complete sentences with a semicolon when you want to keep two closely related ideas in one sentence.

By using a semicolon instead of a period between two sentences, you show that those two sentences have a closer relationship to each other than they do to the sentences around them.

Note: Think of a comma as a brief pause, a semicolon as a more moderate pause, and a period as a stop.

Example:

Rule 9:
You may join two sentences by using a semicolon with a transitional word and a comma

Some common transitional words are:
however has the same meaning as *but*

furthermore has the same meaning as *in addition*

instead has the same meaning as *rather*

consequently has the same meaning *as a result*

nevertheless has the same meaning as *however*

Example: