

MPC English & Study Skills Center

Conjunctions: Adverbial (Conjunctive Adverbs)

There are four types of conjunctions: Coordinating, Subordinating, Adverbial (Conjunctive Adverbs), and Correlative. **See also** the individual handouts for each of these types.

Conjunctive adverbs join **independent** clauses only. An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence.

✦ Here are two independent clauses (two sentences):

I studied very hard last week. I got an A on my test.

✦ Sometimes, the second independent clause (sentence) has an introductory word or phrase, which must be set off with a comma.

I studied very hard last week. **Therefore,** I got an A on my test.

✦ It is possible to connect independent clauses (sentences) with a semicolon to show that the two ideas are closely related.

I studied very hard last week; I got an A on my test.

✦ When the semicolon is used along with the introductory word of the second sentence, that word is used like a conjunction—to join ideas together—so it is called an adverbial conjunction, or a **conjunctive adverb**. That is, an adverb or adverb phrase is being used as a conjunction. Almost any introductory word or phrase can be used as a conjunctive adverb.

I studied very hard last week; **therefore,** I got an A on my test.

✦ Here are some commonly used conjunctive adverbs:

accordingly	indeed	moreover
also	in fact	nevertheless
besides	instead	otherwise
consequently	however	on the other hand
for example	likewise	then
furthermore	meanwhile	therefore

I waited for you for two hours; **moreover,** I called the police.

Stanley stopped at the market; **then,** he bought gas on the way home.

Bush was popular with voters; **however,** some people questioned his record.

Pets are a lot of trouble; **nevertheless,** I love my cats and dogs.

Christina is very creative; **for example,** she paints beautiful pictures.

I missed the party because I was studying; **on the other hand,** I got an A.