

THE CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB

Recognize a conjunctive adverb when you find one.

Conjunctions have one job, to *connect*. They join words, **phrases**, or **clauses** together to clarify what the writer is saying. Their presence provides smooth transitions from one idea to another.

When the job of an **adverb** is to connect ideas, we call it a *conjunctive* adverb.

Here is the list:

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

A conjunctive adverb can join two **main clauses**. In this situation, the conjunctive adverb behaves like a **coordinating conjunction**, connecting two complete ideas. Notice, however, that you need a **semicolon**, not a comma, to connect the two clauses:

Main Clause + ; + **CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB** + , + **MAIN CLAUSE** .

Read these examples:

The dark skies and distant thunder dissuaded Clarice from her afternoon run; **moreover**, she had thirty calculus problems to solve for her morning class.

Leon's apartment complex does not allow dogs over thirty pounds; **otherwise**, he would have bought the gangly Great Dane puppy playing in the pet store window.

The cat ate a bowlful of tuna; **then**, to the squirrels' delight, the fat feline fell asleep in the rocking chair.

A conjunctive adverb will also introduce, interrupt, or conclude a *single* main clause. In this situation, you will often need **commas** to separate the conjunctive adverb from the rest of the sentence.

Here are examples:

At 10 a.m., Paul was supposed to be taking his biology midterm. **Instead**, he was flirting with the pretty waitress at the coffee house.

Maria declined Jeff's third invitation to go out. This young man is determined, **nevertheless**, to take her to dinner one night soon.

After mowing the yard in the hot sun, Pedro was too hungry to shower. He did wash his dusty hands, **however**.

If the break is weak, do not use comma(s).

Anna called to say her car would not start. Rafael will **therefore** have to walk to school.

Weak interruption = no commas.

The long noodles splashed tomato sauce all over the front of Brenda's shirt. Ordering fettuccine was a mistake **indeed**.

Weak interruption = no comma.

