

Sentence Punctuation Patterns

Independent clause

Example: The English Center was packed.

Independent clause, Coordinating conjunction + Independent clause

Example: The English Center was packed, and all the tables were filled.

Independent clause ; Independent clause

Example: The English Center was packed; all of the tables were filled.

Independent clause ; Conjunctive adverb , Independent clause

Example: Aubie couldn't find his tail; therefore, he was late.

Dependent clause , Independent clause

Example: Because his tail was missing, Aubie was late.

Independent clause + Dependent clause

Example: Aubie was late because his tail was missing.

First part of Independent clause , Non-essential phrase , rest of Independent clause

Example: Most tigers, unlike some schools mascots, have permanently attached tails.

First part of independent clause + Essential phrase + rest of Independent clause

Example: All tigers that are included on the endangered species list are protected by law.

If you find that you are repeatedly using the same sentence pattern, try to mix in some of these different sentence patterns. The examples above show the many ways of saying the same thing, and variety may liven up your paper.