

The Conjunctive Adverb

Learning to Use Adverbial Conjunctions

Reading and Discussion

When learning about conjunctions, we learn that a **conjunction** is a joining word. It joins words, phrases or clauses together in a sentence. There are three main types of conjunctions:

1. coordinating
2. subordinating
3. correlative

When using conjunctions, sometimes we need to use an **adverbial conjunction**. Here is a list of adverbial conjunctions.

accordingly
consequently
nevertheless

however
hence

therefore
moreover

An **adverbial conjunction** is similar to a coordinating conjunction. It joins two independent clauses together to make a compound sentence.

What is a compound sentence? A compound sentence is a sentence made up of two or more independent clauses. An independent clause is a simple sentence. It makes a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. For instance:

- Maria bakes the best cakes.
- Anna's cakes are the prettiest in town.

Both of these sentences are complete. They are both independent clauses and need nothing else to complete their meaning. But, what happens when you join them with an adverbial conjunction, like **however**?

- Maria bakes the best cakes; however, Anna's cakes are the prettiest in town.

The result is a compound sentence, which is made of two independent clauses joined together by an adverbial conjunction. You might also notice the punctuation in this sentence. A **semicolon** comes before the adverbial conjunction; a **comma** comes after the conjunction.

- Samantha usually eats two pieces of pumpkin pie; however, she has already eaten today.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

Activity A: Fill in the Blanks. The sentences below are missing the adverbial conjunction and punctuation. Using the list on page one, fill in the blank with one of the adverbial conjunctions. Remember to use the correct punctuation.

1. Mary Jane left her mittens on the school bus _____ she keeps a pair of gloves in her book bag.
2. My teacher told us we did well on the quiz _____ we will all get ice cream as a reward.
3. Joe forgot to do his homework _____ he won't get to go on the field trip this week.
4. Grandma bakes the worst pies in the state _____ I love my grandma.
5. Our baseball team is undefeated _____ we have to practice every day.
6. Max's puppy chewed up the new leash _____ Max bought another leash.
7. I didn't bring my history book home yesterday _____ I can't do my homework.

Activity B: Your Turn. Look up one of the adverbial conjunctions you didn't use in Part A . Write a sentence using one of them as the adverbial conjunction.

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Activity A:

1. Mary Jane left her mittens on the school bus; however, she keeps a pair of gloves in her book bag.
2. My teacher told us we did well on the quiz; therefore, we will all get ice cream as a reward.
3. Joe forgot to do his homework; consequently, he won't get to go on the field trip this week.
4. Grandma bakes the worst pies in the state; nevertheless, I love my grandma.
5. Our baseball team is undefeated; nevertheless, we have to practice every day.
6. Max's puppy chewed up the new leash; however, Max bought another leash.
7. I didn't bring my history book home yesterday; therefore, I can't do my homework.

Tip: Because some of the adverbial conjunctions are synonyms of one another or have similar meanings, they could be interchanged in some of the sentences in Part A.

Activity B

Answers will vary.