# Joining Independent Clauses

- An *Independent Clause* can stand alone – independently – as a complete sentence. It has both a *Subject* and a *Predicate:* a *Subject* includes a noun and is the actor of the clause; a *Predicate* includes a verb and is the action.
  - To see if a *Clause* is *Independent*, look for a *Subject* and a *Predicate*:

    Peanut butter (*Subject*) is my favorite food. (*Predicate*)

    It (*Subject*) is even good with dessert. (*Predicate*)

- Because each *Independent Clause* stands alone, it needs its own punctuation.

- Five ways to join *Independent Clauses*:

  Period .

  Peanut butter is my favorite food. It is even good with dessert.
  *A period completely separates the two ideas.*

  Semicolon ;

  Peanut butter is my favorite food; it is even good with dessert.
  *A semicolon keeps the ideas connected.*

  Colon :

  Peanut butter is my favorite food: it is even good with dessert.
  *A colon informs the reader that the second Independent Clause is an example of, or elaboration on, the first.*

  Dash —

  Peanut butter is my favorite food – it is even good with dessert.
  *A dash emphasizes the second Independent Clause.*

  Comma + Coordinating Conjunction , **FANBOYS**

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | **For (explanation)** | **But (contrast)** |
  | **And (addition)** | **Or (alternate)** |
  | **Nor (negative alternate)** | **Yet (related but contrary)** |
  | | **So (consequence)** |

  Peanut butter is my favorite food, and it is even good with dessert.

  *Each coordinating conjunction changes the meaning of the sentence.*

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