

III. Trying It Out

Combine the following sentences with some of the above techniques. Use the hints for which type of 'connecting word' or strategy to use.

Of course, you could use 'coordination' for some of these, but try to use 'subordination' instead. Subordination is often better at conveying logical relationships between ideas and more subtle distinctions; therefore, it is really useful in 'formal' writing.

- Although*
1) Many personal essays make use of very personal information. *+* The beginning of Shirley Lim's "Two Lives" uses a detached, third-person voice that distances the reader.

(Show a distinction or contrast.)

- While*
2) I usually take the train. *+* Today I took the bus.

(Show a distinction or contrast.)

- Because*
3) Stronger DUI laws have been enacted in several states. *+* The number of arrests for DUI have decreased around the country.

(Show cause and effect.)

- Although*
4) Amy Tan suggests that her mother's use of language was 'fractured'. *+* Her way of using English was actually very rich and extremely creative.

(Show another distinction or contrast.)

- because*
5) I did not rent the apartment. *x* The building was too far away.

"No comma before 'because'"

(Show a cause and effect / reason.)

- 6) Amy Tan published The Joy Luck Club in 1989 and won a National Book Award, *which* The Joy Luck Club is probably her most famous novel.

(Use a relative pronoun with a clause to describe Tan's novel.)

- 7) The book, ^{which} has over ten short essays by the same author, ^{which} has a blue cover and has 200 pages.

(Use a relative pronoun with a clause to combine sentences.)

- 8) I have a hard time recycling my garbage, ^{because} the recycling bins are in the basement of my building.

(Show a reason.)

- 9) Gary Soto's essay tells the story of working hard in a tire factory, ^{which processed used tires,} where physical labor was brutal. ~~The tire factory processed used tires.~~

(Combine with a relative pronoun to describe the tire factory).

- 10) ^{While} many personal essays use private experiences to comment on wider social questions, ^{some} essays give us such a personal perspective that it is hard to know what to make of the author's opinion.

(Show another distinction or contrast.)

- 11) ^{Since} I could not find the book in the library, ^{or} I asked one of the librarians for help.

(Show cause and effect / reason.)

Use a comma if the dependent clause comes first.

- 12) I asked one of the librarians for help, ^{since} I could not find the book in the library.

(Show cause and effect / reason.)

No comma before 'since.'