

# 4 RULES FOR SEMICOLONS



# Connect Loosely Related Ideas



- Connect ideas stronger than with a comma
- Links two independent clauses
- The two clauses are given equal value
- Example: Some people are nice;  
Some people are mean.

# Comma Splice - Common Mistake



- When connecting two independent clauses by a comma
- It should be a semicolon or two sentences.
- Wrong: Cake is tasty, cake is great.
- Right: Cake is tasty; cake is great.
- Right: Cake is tasty. Cake is great.

## Next Rule



- Two independent clauses that are connected by conjunctive adverbs or transitional phrases
- Example: People usually like to eat cake; as a result, many people shop at the local bakery

# What Is A Conjunctive Adverb



- Adverb or phrase joining independent clauses in a sentence
- Example: I missed the train; therefore, things became hopeless
- Example: Many desserts are great; however, my heart belongs to cake.

# Conjunctive Adverb Words



- accordingly, also, besides, consequently, finally, however, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, nevertheless, next, otherwise, still, therefore, then, etc.

## Next Rule



- Between items in a list if any of the items contain commas.
- Example: There are two kinds of food preferences: cake, which is tasty; or vegetables which are healthier but boring.

## Next Rule



- Between independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction if the clauses are already punctuated with commas or long.
- Example: Some people like sweets like chocolate, cake, and candy; however, other people like healthy food like spinach, broccoli, and carrots.



# Coordinating Conjunction: FANBOYS



➤ F - For

➤ A - And

➤ N - Nor

➤ B - But

➤ O - Or. Y = Yet. S = So