

Punctuation Road Signs

Stop: Connects two sentences

SENTENCE (independent/essential clause) (basic outfit = subject/verb)

Semicolon (;) Beans are planted on the mounds; squash is planted between the mounds.

Period (.) Beans are planted on the mounds. Squash is planted between the mounds.

Conjunction(,Fanboys) Beans are planted on the mounds, and squash is planted between the mounds. **FANBOYS** = *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*

GO: Not a sentence – can't stand alone

Phrase or Non-Essential Clause (subordinate/dependent) (accessories)

Comma (,) Beans are planted on the mounds, while squash is planted between the mounds.

Dash (-) Beans – a healthy vegetable – are planted on the mounds.

YIELD: Explanation, definition, list

SENTENCE: phrase/non-essential clause or sentence

Colon (:) Beans are planted on the mounds: they need higher elevation. (Explanation)

The mounds support the growth of many vegetables: beans, squash, zucchini. (List)

Four Types of Sentences

Simple: Subject and verb. *I ran.*

Compound: Two simple sentences stuck together with a conjunction. *I ran, and I fell.*

Complex: A phrase or clause attached to the simple sentence. *Because I was late for class, I ran.*

Compound-complex: A phrase or clause attached to a compound sentence. *Because I was late for class, I ran, and I fell.*

Commas should:

- Separate nonessential elements from the sentence
- Link non-essential (dependent) clauses to sentences (independent clauses)
- Link sentences (independent clauses) with help from a coordinating (FANBOYS) conjunction
- Separate list items

Commas should **not**...

- Split a subject and a verb
- Come before prepositions

Incorrect:

- The chicken crossed, **to** the other side of the road.
- The chicken crossed to the other side, **of** the road.

Correct:

- The chicken crossed to the other side of the road.