Combining Sentences


The best papers flow smoothly from one idea to another. Choppy writing is usually the biggest issue when a paper doesn’t flow well. One way to avoid choppiness is the combination of simple sentences to show the relationship between the ideas of two sentences.

Here is an example of choppy writing:
The workers built the roads. They were tired after a hot day.

**Ways to Combine Sentences**

1. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).
   - *Example:* The workers built the roads, and they were tired after a hot day.

2. Use a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb (therefore, however, although, etc.).
   - *Example:* The workers built the roads; consequently, they were tired after a hot day.

3. Use a subordinate clause (a phrase dependent upon the main part of a sentence) to show the relative importance of the two clauses. When a subordinate clause is at the end of the sentence, though, no comma is used.
   - *Examples:*
     Because the workers built the roads, they were tired after a hot day.
     The workers were tired after a hot day because they built the roads.

4. Use relative pronouns (that, which, who, whom, whose, whoever, whomever) to combine ideas.
   - *Example:* The workers who built the roads were tired after a hot day.