

Activity 6: Combining Independent Clauses with Coordinating Words, Transitions, and Semicolons

This activity is based on Jane Brody, "Attacking the Obesity Epidemic by First Figuring Out Its Cause."

Combine the following sentences using coordinating words or transitions to combine clauses. Circle the transition word and punctuation. Make sure the logical relationships are appropriate, and check that you have punctuated the sentences correctly.

1. Since 1900, the energy requirements for daily life have decreased.
American weights remained stable until the 1970s.

Transition: *Since 1900, the energy requirements for daily life have decreased; however, American weights remained stable until the 1970s.*

2. The quantity of refined carbohydrates and fats in the American diet increased sharply in the 1970s.
The obesity epidemic began.

Coordination:

3. Experts reported that it would be possible to bring the weights of Americans back to 1978 levels.
Steep reductions in caloric intakes would be needed.

Transition:

4. To do this, unhealthy foods and drinks could be taxed.
Nutrition labeling could be more obvious.
Advertising junk food and beverages to children could be reduced.

Coordination:

5. Very few children are born obese.
Most American children grow up in an obesogenic environment.

Transition: