

Correcting Faulty Coordination

Faulty coordination occurs when two coordinate clauses have unequal ideas and these two clauses are mistakenly treated as though they should be given equal emphasis.

- Faulty coordination: The bus driver is a careless person, and he was pulled over by the police several times last week. [ideas of unequal rank]

The two ideas in this sentence are completely different. No writer would wish to give them equal rank. This faulty coordination can be corrected by placing one of the ideas in a subordinate position. It depends on the writer's purpose which idea needs to be put in the subordinate clause.

- Corrected: The bus driver, who is a careless person, was pulled over by the police several times last week.

Faulty coordination can be corrected by placing ideas of lesser emphasis in a subordinate position. You may give an idea less emphasis by using a subordinate clause, a modifying phrase or an appositive.

1. Subordination can be done by using a subordinate clause.

- Faulty coordination: The malfunctioning car is at the mechanic's, and it may take a week to be repaired.

Corrected by an ADJECTIVE clause:

- The malfunctioning car that is at the mechanic's may take a week to be repaired.

Corrected by an adverb clause:

- If the malfunctioning car is at the mechanic's, it may take a week to be repaired. 2. Subordination can be done by using a modifying phrase.
- Faulty coordination: the book is on the fifth shelf, and it just came out. This faulty coordination can be corrected by a modifying phrase:
- The book on the fifth shelf just came out.

3. Subordination can also be done by using an appositive. (An appositive is a word, with or without modifiers, which follows a noun or pronoun and helps to explain it).

- Faulty coordination: Mr. Green is the CEO of the company, and he is a native of Arkansas.

Corrected by an appositive:

- Mr. Green, the CEO of the company, is a native of Arkansas.