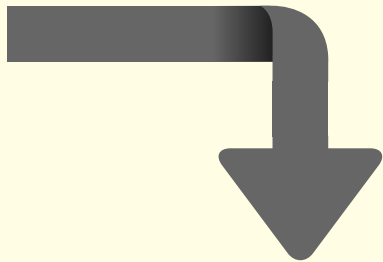


SENTENCES AND CLAUSES

Building Blocks of Your Writing



Independent Clauses



Clauses that are complete, can stand alone, and have a subject/verb. For example, The students learned about Shakespeare yesterday.

1 Independent Clause = 1 Simple Sentence

Dependent Clauses



1. Incomplete clauses that need additional information

2. These clauses usually start with a subordinate conjunction.

For example, **Even though** it was late, the students decided to stay and study.

Other Subordinate Conjunctions include: after, although, if, even if, as, although, even though...

COMPOUND SENTENCES/PUNCTUATION

1. A sentence with several independent clauses.

For example, The clown frightened the little girl, and she ran off screaming.

2. Use Coordinate Conjunctions to connect independent clauses.

For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

3. Always use a comma before the Coordinating Conjunctions if you are connecting independent clauses.

For example, The Freedom Riders departed on May 4, 1961, **and** they were determined to travel through many southern states.



PLACE THE COMMAS

1. Although I felt he was wrong I decided to trust him.

2. Sharon started looking for a new job even though she was currently employed.

3. Though I couldn't understand a word we had a great time!

4. Since you need some help I'll come over this afternoon.

COMPLEX SENTENCES/PUNCTUATION

1. A sentence that includes one independent and at least one dependent clause.

For example, They went for a walk even though it was raining, .

2. One of the clauses usually starts with a subordinate conjunction indicating the subordinate clause.

For example, after, although, as, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order, rather than since, so that, than, that, though, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever, whether, while

3. If you start the sentence with the subordinate clause, use a comma to separate it from the Independent Clause.

For example, Even though it was raining, they went for a walk.

