

COMBINING SENTENCES - Coordination / Subordination CLAUSES:

A clause is a group of words containing a subject and a verb. There are two kinds of clauses: independent (main) and dependent (subordinate).

Independent Clause: I have the money
Dependent Clause: When I have the money

An INDEPENDENT CLAUSE is a group of words with a subject and a verb that can stand alone and make sense. An independent clause expresses a complete thought by itself and can be written as a separate sentence.

She plays the guitar
The manager is not here

A DEPENDENT CLAUSE is a group of words with a subject and a verb that DEPENDS on a main clause to give it meaning.

since Brian came home (no meaning alone)
dependent clause

Since Brian came home, his mother has been happy
dependent clause ***independent clause***

because she was needed (no meaning)
dependent clause

She stayed in the game because she was needed
independent clause ***dependent clause***

(has meaning)

One type of dependent clause is called a RELATIVE CLAUSE. A relative clause begins with a relative pronoun, such as THAT, WHICH, OR WHO. Relative pronouns RELATE the clause to another word in the sentence.

that fell last night (no meaning alone)

The snow that fell last night is nearly gone.
(has meaning)

Identify the independent and dependent clauses.

Circle I = Independent Clause. D = Dependent Clause:

for a long time I D

the players assembled in the coach's office I D

after loosing the game I D

we will live in Mexico I D

who lives in Washington I D

which is ten years old I D

because it was late I D

that I made I D

TYPES OF SENTENCES

<u>Type</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Example</u>
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Independent clauses are underlined
Dependent clauses are in *italics*

Simple: 1 independent clause

She did the work well.

Compound:
2 or more independent clauses

She did the work well,
and she was paid well.

Complex: 1 dependent clause
1 or more independent
clauses.

Because she did the work well,
she was paid well.

Compound-Complex:
1 or more dependent
clauses; 2 or more
independent clauses

Because she did the work well,
she was paid well, and
she was satisfied.

If you intend to communicate two equally important and closely related ideas, you will place them close together in a compound sentence. Depending on which coordinating conjunction you use, you can show different kinds of relationships:

FOR shows a reason:

I am very tired, for I worked very hard today.

AND shows equal ideas:

I am very tired, and I want to rest for a few minutes.

NOR indicates a negative choice or alternative:

I am not very tired, nor am I hungry right now.

BUT shows contrast:

I am very tired, but I have no time to rest now.

OR indicates a choice or an alternative:

I will take a nap, or I will go out jogging.

YET indicates contrast:

I am tired, yet I am unable to relax

Another way to join independent clauses to form a compound sentence is to put a semicolon between the clauses:

We were late. We missed the first act.

We were late; we missed the first act.

We can also use words called “conjunctive adverbs” after semicolons to make the relationship between the two clauses clearer. Look at how the conjunctive adverb *therefore* adds the idea of “as a result.”

We were late; *therefore*, we missed the first act.

The most common conjunctive adverbs are:

; however,
; otherwise,
; therefore,
; similarly,
; hence,
Independent clause - **;** on the other hand, - Independent clause
; then
; consequently,
; also,
; thus,

Consider the meaning you want when you use a conjunctive adverb to coordinate ideas.

As a result: *therefore, consequently, hence, thus, then*

To the contrary or with reservation: *however, nevertheless, otherwise, on the other hand*

In addition to: *moreover, also*

To emphasize or specify: *in fact, for example*

To compare: *similarly*

EXERCISES:

WRITING COMPOUND SENTENCES

Write 5 compound sentences using coordinating conjunctions. The sentences have been started for you. Then write 5 new compound sentences using coordinating conjunctions.

1. It was the car of her dreams, _____
2. She used the internet to find the dealer's cost, _____

3. She now is ready to bargain, _____
4. Armed with facts, she went to the dealer, _____

5. The dealer made an offer, _____
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Subordination: The Complex Sentence

A compound sentence contains independent clauses that are equally important and closely related; on the other hand, a complex sentence combines ideas of unequal value.

The following sentences can be combined as either a compound sentence or a complex sentence, depending on whether the writer thinks the ideas are of equal value:

My neighbors are considerate.

They never play loud music.

Compound sentence = ideas of equal value:

My neighbors are considerate, and they never play loud music

Independent clause
(main idea)

Independent clause
(main idea)

Complex sentence = ideas of unequal value:

Because my neighbors are considerate, they never play loud music.

Dependent clause
(less important idea)

Independent clause
(main idea)

Although both the compound and the complex forms are correct, the complex form conveys the ideas more precisely in this sentence because one idea does seem to be more important—one idea depends on the other.

Words that show the relationship of a dependent clause to an independent clause are called **subordinating conjunctions**. The most common **subordinating conjunctions** are: because, after, when, although, since, until, unless, before.

When the dependent clause comes first in the sentence, it is necessary to add a comma:

While the ship was sinking, they continue to dance.

They continue to dance while the ship was sinking.

EXERCISES:

Write 10 complex sentences. The first four have been started for you.

1. Although the job paid well, _____
2. Before he went to work each day, _____
3. When she returned home each night, _____
4. Because her social life was suffering, _____
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Coordination and Subordination: The Compound-Complex Sentence

At times you may want to show the relationship of three or more ideas within one sentence. If that relationship involves two or more main ideas and one or more supporting ideas, the combination can be stated in a compound-complex sentence (two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses).

Before he learned how to operate a word processor,
dependent clause

he had trouble with his typewritten assignments,
independent clause

but now he produces clean, attractive pages.
independent clause

Because Mr. Martinez was a talented teacher,
he was voted teacher of the year, and his students
prospered.

