



Compound and Complex Sentences

A **compound** sentence is composed of two or more independent clauses. The clauses may be joined by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so), a semicolon, or a conjunctive adverb (also, however, likewise, therefore, then, certainly).

Example: I was studying late last night, and I am tired today.
I was studying late last night; I am tired today.
I was studying late last night; consequently, I am tired today.

A **complex** sentence is composed of one **independent** clause and one or more **dependent** clauses.

An **independent** clause expresses a complete thought and has a subject and a verb.

A **dependent** clause, while it contains a subject and a verb, does not express a complete idea. It is "dependent" on the stronger, independent idea to complete its meaning and does not stand alone. Words that make a clause **dependent** include: whose, while, who, whoever, whenever, what, where, whom, when, whether, after, although, as, since, so, than, that, though, because, before, & if. When the sentence begins with a **dependent** clause, a comma separates the **dependent** clause and the **independent** clause.

Example: If you ever write a dependent clause, it must be connected to an independent one.

When you write a sentence like this, place a comma between the clauses.

After you study for a while, you'll recognize dependent clauses by their first word.

Whenever you see these first words, you might be looking at a dependent clause.

Since it is a clause, it will have both a subject and a verb.

A **compound** and a **complex** sentence can be combined to make a **compound-complex** sentence. It contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Example: Because I am a picky eater, I don't eat cafeteria food, and I often feel hungry as a result.