

Coordination and Subordination: Avoiding Run-Ons, Comma Splices, And Fused Sentences.

Use **COORDINATION** to show that two or more elements in a sentence are equally important in meaning.

Option 1: Independent¹ clause , coordinating conjunction independent clause.
, for
, and
, nor
, but
, or
, yet
, so

Option 2: Independent clause; independent clause.

Option 3: Independent clause ; common conjunctive adverb, independent clause.
; consequently,
; furthermore,
; however,
; indeed,
; in fact,
; moreover,
; nevertheless,
; then,
; therefore,

Use **SUBORDINATION** to indicate that some elements in a sentence are less important than others for your meaning.

Option 1: Dependent² clause, independent clause.

In this situation, a sentence begins with one of the following words, so a comma must come after the dependent clause:

After
Although
As/As if
Because
During
Even/Even though

If
In order that
Rather than
Since
Though
Unless

Until
When
Whenever
Where/Whereas
Whether
While

Option 2: Independent clause dependent clause.

In this situation, the subordinating conjunction falls in the middle of the sentence (just before the dependent clause). In this case, you do not add a comma.

¹ An independent clause makes a complete statement and can stand alone as a sentence.
I went to the grocery store.

² A dependent clause is just like an independent clause *except* that it begins with a subordinating word, which turns the independent clause into an incomplete statement that cannot stand alone as a sentence.
When I went to the grocery store, I bought some milk.