

Clauses

Clauses are groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. There are two main types of clauses: **independent** and **dependent**.

1. Independent Clauses (IC)

An independent clause contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. Since this type of clause is *independent*, it can stand on its own as a complete sentence.

Example A: *Dan extinguished the fire.*

In this example, Dan is the subject, extinguished is the verb, and a complete thought is expressed. Therefore, this is both a complete sentence and an independent clause.

2. Dependent Clauses (DC)

A dependent clause also has a subject and a verb, but it does not express a complete thought. Since it is *dependent*, it cannot be a sentence on its own.

Example B: *Because Dan extinguished the fire...*

In this example, Dan is once again the subject and extinguished the verb. However, it does not express a complete thought. Therefore, this is a dependent clause.

This concept of a complete thought can be confusing. Both sentences seem to have the same message. However, the second example is not complete. To distinguish a dependent clause from an independent clause, there is a list of *Dependent Marker Words*. When one of these words is placed before an independent clause, that clause becomes dependent. In our examples, the two clauses are almost identical, except for the **because** at the beginning of the dependent clause in Example B. **Because** is a Dependent Marker Word. Below is a table of common Dependent Marker Words to guide you in creating your own dependent clauses. They are also called Subordinate Conjunctions.



Note:

When the dependent clause comes first, place a comma between the two clauses, as in Example A. **DC, IC**

When the dependent clause comes after the independent clause, like in Example B, use no punctuation between the two clauses.
IC DC

Examples: Although you may not believe me, I am related to Brad Pitt.
DC IC

The cop arrested the shoplifters after they had stolen a peanut.
IC DC

Exercise 2:

Connect the sentences by turning one independent clause into a dependent clause (use the table of Dependent Marker Words) and link the two sentences together. The first example has been done for you.

1. The actors all stopped abruptly. The director yelled “cut”.
The actors all stopped abruptly **when** the director yelled “cut”.
2. The mother gave her son a cookie. This kept him quiet for a while. (omit “this”)
3. He keeps playing with the law. He will be caught very soon.
4. Katie disliked algebra. She had a fantastic mathematics teacher this term.

2. Coordination

A coordinate relationship is the second way to connect clauses. Two independent clauses can be connected by using either coordinate conjunctions, also known as FANBOYS, or conjunctive adverbs or phrases.

Coordinate Conjunction (FANBOYS): For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So.

Conjunctive Adverbs/Phrases: moreover, however, therefore, consequently, then, on the contrary, at this point.

When using one of the FANBOYS/coordinate conjunctions (cc) to connect two independent clauses, a comma must be used before the fanboy. **IC, cc IC**

When using one of the conjunctive adverbs (ca) to connect two independent clauses, a period or semicolon must be used before and a comma may be used after the conjunctive adverb. Note that after a semicolon, the adverb is not capitalized, but after the period, the adverb is capitalized. **IC; ca, IC or IC. Ca, IC**

Example A: *He loves to compete, so he joins every sports team at his school.*

He loves to compete; therefore, he joins every sports team at his school.

Example B: *The blanket shielded the baby from the harsh winter wind, yet the baby got the flu anyway.*

*The blanket shielded the baby from the harsh winter wind.
However, the baby got the flu anyway.*

Example C: *The compute crashed, and the keyboard broke.*

The computer crashed; moreover, the keyboard broke.

Note: Conjunctive adverbs don't have to be at the beginning of a sentence or independent clause. They can sometimes be placed in the middle or end of an independent clause, although this form is less common. When the adverb is in the middle of the sentence, commas must be used around the adverb. At the end of the sentence, the adverb must be preceded by a comma.

- (a) The chef lost a nail in the soup. **Consequently**, one of the customers choked.
- (b) The chef lost a nail in the soup. One of the customers, **consequently**, choked.
- (c) The chef lost a nail in the soup. One of the customers choked, **consequently**.

Exercise 3:

Connect the two independent clauses by using either a FANBOY or a conjunctive adverb. The first example has been done for you.

1. The family photo album had been stolen. All their mementos were gone.
The family photo album had been stolen, **so** all their mementos were gone.

OR

The family photo album had been stolen; **therefore**, all their mementos were gone.

2. Lyle received top grades in his linguistics classes. He was a dedicated student.

3. The graduates wanted to celebrate their success. They went to Aruba to enjoy the hot tropical sun.

4. The tutor seized the opportunity to teach. She was unable to reach all of her students.



More Examples of Conjunctive Adverbs and Phrases

Contrast	however on the contrary nevertheless	instead nonetheless all the same	on the other hand in contrast
Result	thus in this way therefore	as a consequence as a result for this reason	consequently hence
Addition	also likewise in addition	similarly furthermore moreover	besides
Example	for example	for instance	to illustrate
Time/Sequence	now later previously final these days next earlier	at last at this point afterwards meanwhile occasionally today beforehand	simultaneously first, second, third then subsequently at the same time
Emphasis	in fact	indeed	certainly
Conclusion	in conclusion in brief	on the whole	overall



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