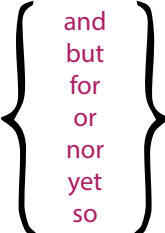
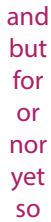


Combining Independent and Dependent Clauses

According to the Purdue OWL, an independent clause is “a group of words that contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.” A dependent clause is “a group of words that contains a subject and verb but does not express a complete thought.”

Combining Two Independent Clauses

- Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction (connecting word).

Independent clause,   independent clause.


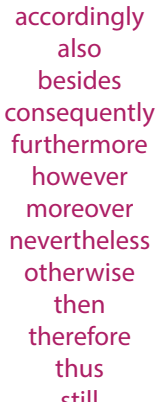
*Example: I was tired after working all day, **so** I decided to go to bed early.*

- Use a semicolon between two independent clauses with no coordinating conjunction.

Independent clause ; independent clause.

Example: I was tired from working all day; I decided to go to bed early.

- Use a semicolon before and a comma after the conjunctive adverbs (connecting words) listed below.

Independent clause;   , independent clause.

*Example: I was tired from working all day; **therefore**, I decided to go to bed early.*



Combining Independent Clauses with Dependent Clauses

- When the dependent clause begins with a subordinating conjunction (connecting word) and precedes the independent clause, separate the clauses with a comma.

After
Although
Even though
Though
As
As if
As though
As long as
Because
Before
If
So/So that
Since
Until
Whatever
When
Whenever
Where
Wherever
Whether
While

dependent clause,

Subordinate clauses are dependent. They can't stand alone as complete sentences because they begin with a subordinating conjunction.

independent clause.

Independent clauses can stand alone as complete sentences.

Example: *Since I was tired, I decided to go to bed.*

- When the dependent (subordinate) clause follows the independent clause, don't use a comma before or after the subordinating conjunction (connecting word).

Independent clause

Independent clauses can stand alone as complete sentences.

after
although
even though
though
as
as if
as though
as long as
because
before
if
so/ so that
since
unless
until
whatever
when
whenever
where
wherever
whether
while

dependent clause.

Subordinate clauses are dependent. They can't stand alone as complete sentences because they begin with a subordinating conjunction.

Example: *I decided to go to bed since I was tired.*