

Joining Clauses by Subordination

Common Subordinating Conjunctions

After

Although

As

As if

Because

Before

Even

Even if

Even though

If

In order to

Since

Though

Unless

Until

Whatever

When

Whenever

Whether

While

Dependent Clause

- A **dependent clause** cannot stand alone in a sentence. It must be linked with an **independent clause** to make a sentence.
- If a dependent is allowed to stand alone, it creates a **sentence fragment** (a no-no in writing). To fix, combine the dependent clause with an independent clause through what is called **subordination**.

Subordination

- **Subordination** is the process of joining a dependent clause with an independent clause.

Dependent Clause:

since the new polls don't come out until tomorrow

Independent Clause:

We do not know where Georgia is ranked

New Sentence:

We do not know where Georgia is ranked since the new polls don't come out until tomorrow.

Reversibility of Clauses

- At times, a writer may want to put the independent clause first:

We do not know where Georgia is ranked since the new polls don't come out until tomorrow.

- At other times, a writer may want to put the dependent clause first

Since the new polls don't come out until tomorrow, we do not know where Georgia is ranked.

Comma Rule

- Either order is correct, but when the dependent clause is first, a **comma** should be inserted between the dependent and independent clause.

Since the new polls don't come out until tomorrow, we do not know where Georgia is ranked.

- There is no need for a comma when the independent clause is first.

We do not know where Georgia is ranked since the new polls don't come out until tomorrow.

Subordination and Sentence Flow

- Another purpose of subordination is to combine two choppy sentences into a single flowing sentence:
 - The crowd gasped. Todd Gurley rolled his ankle.
- Since the two simple sentences are related, you can combine them to express the action more fluidly:
 - The crowd gasped *when* Todd Gurley rolled his ankle.

Wrap-up/ Review

- Can a dependent clause ever make a sentence alone?
What does it need?
 - No, it needs an independent clause.
- Can an independent clause make a sentence by itself?
 - Yes, because it expresses a complete thought.