

PUNCTUATION PATTERN SHEET

Use the following patterns to help make punctuation choices. Remember that independent clauses contain a finite verb and can stand alone as a complete sentence. Dependent clauses cannot stand alone.

Clauses may be punctuated with a period (.), a semi-colon (;), or a colon (:).

Pattern 1:

Independent clause .

Ex. Some students enjoy grammar class.

Pattern 2:

Independent clause ; independent clause .

Ex. Some students enjoy grammar class; all smart students enjoy grammar class.

Pattern 3:

Independent clause ;

Conjunctive adverbs
(*therefore, however,
nevertheless,
consequently, moreover,
furthermore*)

, independent clause .

Ex. Smart students always complete their homework; consequently, those students are successful in school.

Pattern 4:

Independent clause ;

Coordinating
conjunction (*and,
but, or, nor, so,
yet—and
sometimes for
and then*)

independent clause .

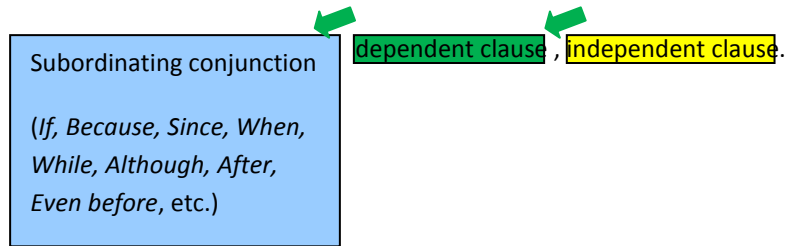
Ex. Smart students always complete their homework, and they often receive praise from their professors.

Pattern 5:

Independent ; interruptive phrase , clause .

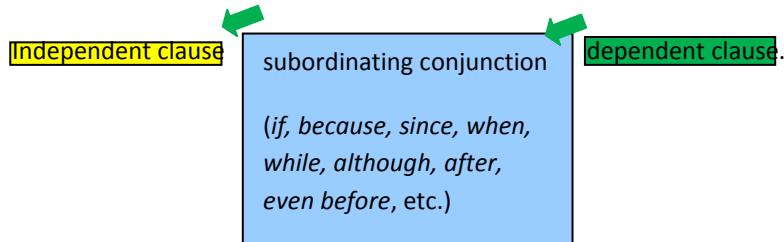
Ex. Some students, particularly the smart ones, always complete their homework.

Pattern 6:



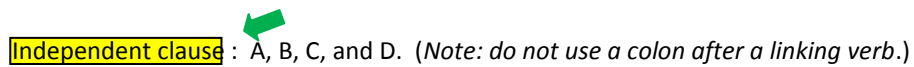
Ex. Because some students always complete their homework, they always appear smart to their peers.

Pattern 7:



Ex. Some students appear smart to their peers because those students always complete their homework.

Pattern 8:



Ex. We have studied three types of verbals: infinitives, participles, and gerunds.