# **Clauses and Sentence Structure**

# There are two types of clauses:

Clause - a group of words with a subject and a verb

- Independent Clause (IC) a clause that can stand alone as a complete idea Ex: Llove ice cream. Sam smiles a lot.
- Dependent Clause (DC) a clause that CANNOT stand alone as a complete idea; a dependent clause begins with a subordinating conjunction

Ex: Since I love ice cream ... When Sam smiles a lot...

# There are two types of conjunctions that link clauses in order to form sentences:

Coordinating Conjunctions (also called FANBOYS for short)

 $\underline{\mathbf{f}}$  or  $\underline{\mathbf{a}}$  nd  $\underline{\mathbf{n}}$  or  $\underline{\mathbf{b}}$  ut  $\underline{\mathbf{o}}$ r  $\underline{\mathbf{y}}$  et \*\*  $\underline{\mathbf{s}}$  o \*\*\*

\*As a conjunction, for means because (I'm tired, for I stayed up too late last night.), not towards (This gift is for you.).

\*\*As a conjunction, yet means the same thing as but (I would like to go to the party, yet I'm too sick.), not already (Have you finished your homework yet?).

\*\*\*As a conjunction, so means therefore or that's why (Miguel is sick, so he can't attend the movie.), not very (I'm so tired after that workout.) or so that (I run every day so I can get in shape.).

#### **Subordinating Conjunctions**

after	by the time	in case	since	when
although	even if	once	so that	whenever
as soon as	even though	only if	the first time	whether or not
because	every time	now that	unless	while
before	if		until	

#### Two types of punctuation also function to join clauses into sentences:

comma ,

semi-colon (also called a "super comma") ;

## There are four types of sentences:

#### **1.** Simple sentence (IC)

a sentence with one independent clause A simple sentence is the exact same thing as a single independent clause.

- Kareem rode to work on the train.
- Throughout the school year, Michelle and Allison volunteered at sports events.
- Jamie and Jose walked to school and talked about their summer vacation plans.
- Angel chased her brother down the stairs, through the kitchen, and out the front door.

# 2. Compound sentence (IC, fanboys IC or IC; IC)

a sentence made of two independent clauses joined either by a coordinating conjunction *(fanboys)* or by a semi-colon

A comma comes before the coordinating conjunction.

- Kareem rode to work on the train, <u>but</u> he was still late for the meeting.
- Throughout the school year, Michelle volunteered, <u>and</u> Alison worked at Chick-fil-a.
- Jamie raced to school, <u>for</u> she was excited to see the results of the art competition.
- It's cloudy; it will probably rain.
- Mikey loved Melissa; Melissa didn't love him.

## 3. Complex sentence (IC DC or DC, IC)

a sentence with one independent clause and one dependent clause If the IC comes first, it is INCORRECT to put a comma. However, if the DC comes first, you MUST put a comma after it. Also, the clauses in a complex sentence can be switched around.

- **Because** I love chocolate, my mom made me a chocolate cake for my birthday.
- My mom made me a chocolate cake for my birthday because I love chocolate.
- <u>Although</u> Selena felt sorry for the little puppy, she could not adopt it.
- Selina could not adopt the puppy **<u>although</u>** she felt sorry for it.
- **Even though** Yuki and Naoki are best friends, they disagree on politics and religion.
- Yuki and Naoki disagree on politics and religion **even though** they are best friends.

#### 4. Compound-complex sentence (IC IC DC or IC DC IC or DC IC IC)

a sentence with two independent clauses and one dependent clause in any order. These clauses are joined like a compound sentence (using <u>fanboys</u> or ;) and like a complex sentence (using a <u>subordinating conjunction</u>). Also, note that ANY time a DC comes before an IC, it MUST have a comma after it.

• After he arrived home, Michael put the clothes in the washing machine, and he started dinner. (AfterDC, IC, and

IC)

- Michael put the clothes in the washing machine, <u>and</u> he started dinner <u>after</u> he arrived home. (IC, and IC afterDC)
- **Every time** we go to the movies, Johanna falls asleep, <u>and</u> Marcy gets scared. (Every timeDC, IC, and IC)
- Johanna falls asleep, <u>and</u> Marcy gets scared <u>every time</u> we go to the movies. (IC, and IC every timeDC)
- **Every time** we go to the movies, Johanna falls asleep; Marcy gets scared. (Every timeDC, IC; IC) (Yes! It sounds strange, but this sentence is grammatically correct!)

# **Conjunctive Adverbs in Simple and Compound Sentences**

#### Facts about Conjunctive Adverbs

- Conjunctive adverbs act as transitions between independent clauses. They show the relationship between two ICs. These ICs can be two simple sentences or one compound sentence.
- The conjunctive adverb is ALWAYS part of the second IC.
- The conjunctive adverb MUST be separated from the rest of the independent clause by a comma or commas.
- The ICs of a compound sentence with a conjunctive adverb CANNOT be joined by a comma. ICs MUST be joined with a semi-colon.

againfortunatelyalsofurthermoreas a resulthoweverbesidesin other wordsfinallyindeed

moreover nevertheless otherwise then therefore thus unfortunately

The conjunctive adverb comes in the second of two ICs. It MUST be separated from the rest of the second IC by a comma or commas. The following are sentences are grammatically **correct**. The two ICs MUST be separated by a period or a semi-colon.

- 1. I'm really sick. Therefore, I am going home early.
- 2. I'm really sick. I am, therefore, going home early.
- 3. I'm really sick. I am going home early, therefore.
- 4. I'm really sick; therefore, I am going home early.
- 5. I'm really sick; I am, therefore, going home early.
- 6. I'm really sick; I am going home early, therefore.

The conjunctive adverb CANNOT act like a coordinating conjunction. In other words, it cannot join two independent clauses. The following sentences are grammatically **incorrect**.

- 7. I'm really sick therefore I am going home early.
- 8. I'm really sick, therefore I am going home early.
- 9. I'm really sick therefore, I am going home early.
- 10. I'm really sick, therefore, I am going home early.

Contrast: I'm really sick, **SO** I'm going home early. (*This is grammatically correct because* so *is a coordinating conjunction, not a conjunctive adverb.*)