**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: I love 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)

*for* **and** *nor* **but** *or* **yet**

*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**

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**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, **but** he was still late for the meeting.
- Throughout the school year, Michelle volunteered, **and** Alison worked at Chick-fil-a.
- Jamie raced to school, **for** 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.
- **Although** Selena felt sorry for the little puppy, she could not adopt it.
- Selena could not adopt the puppy **although** 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 fanboys or ;) and like a complex sentence (using a subordinating conjunction). 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** be started dinner.  (**After**DC, **IC** and IC)
- Michael put the clothes in the washing machine, **and** be started dinner **after** he arrived home. (**IC** and **IC** after**DC**)
- **Every time** we go to the movies, Johanna falls asleep, **and** Marcy gets scared. (**Every time**DC, **IC** and **IC**)
- Johanna falls asleep, **and** Marcy gets scared **every time** we go to the movies. (**IC** and **IC** **every time**DC**)
- **Every time** we go to the movies, Johanna falls asleep; Marcy gets scared. (**Every time**DC, **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.

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.*)