

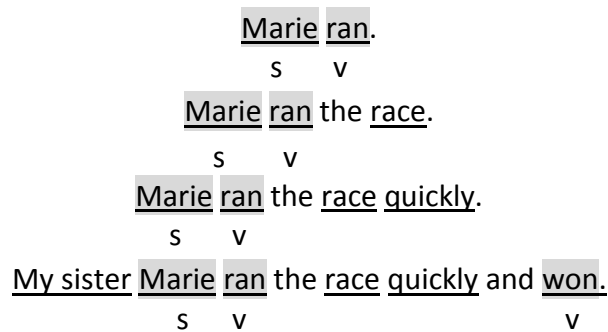
BUILDING COMPLEX SENTENCES (COORDINATION AND SUBORDINATION)

Using complex sentence structure allows you to:

- Express more complicated thoughts
- Make the relationship between related ideas more clear
- Vary sentence structure, which makes your essay more enjoyable to read
- Avoid errors such as comma splice, run-on, and sentence fragments

Complex sentences use certain kinds of words and/or appropriate punctuation to properly combine simple sentences into longer, yet grammatically correct, complex sentences. Once you are able to tell the difference between simple and complex sentence, you can use the guidelines on the next page to help you build complex sentences.

SIMPLE SENTENCES HAVE ONE SUBJECT/VERB PAIR

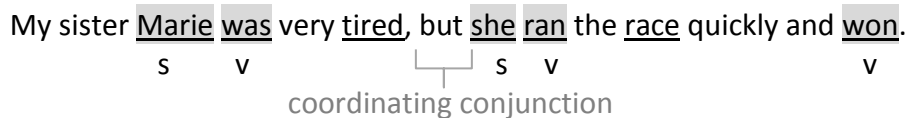


When a sentence is written in a direct style, the **subject** of a sentence tells who or what the sentence is about.

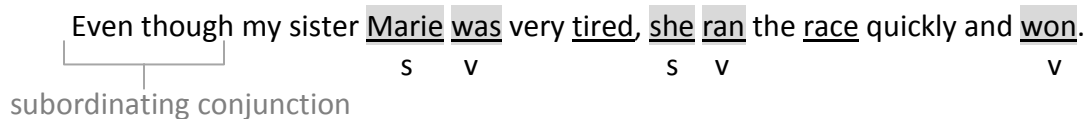
The **verb** tells what is happening to the subject.

COMPLEX SENTENCES COMBINE TWO OR MORE SIMPLE SENTENCES

Coordination=joining two sentences that could each stand alone



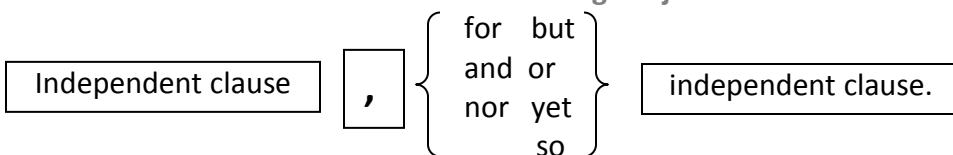
Subordination=joining two sentences where one is made to depend on the other to be complete



What differences do you notice between the two examples of complex sentences?

COORDINATION

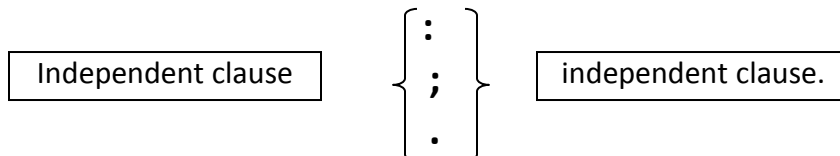
comma and a coordinating conjunction



Just remember:
fan boys

*Raul loves to run with his dog, **but** the dog's short legs prevent her from running very far.
I was running late to school, **so** I asked my roommate for a ride.*

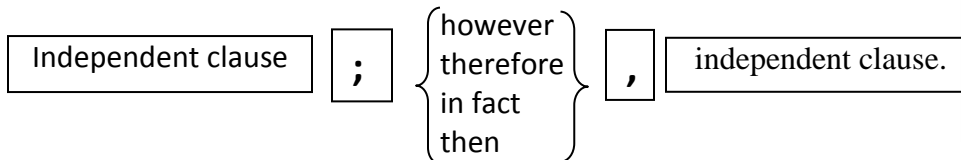
punctuation alone



Each of these punctuation marks means something different—see our punctuation handout for more information.

*Mary's announcement surprised the committee: she had decided to resign.
I came here to convince you to join me; now I see that it's hopeless.
I know you begin your new job tomorrow. I can't wait to hear how it goes.*

semicolon and a transition word

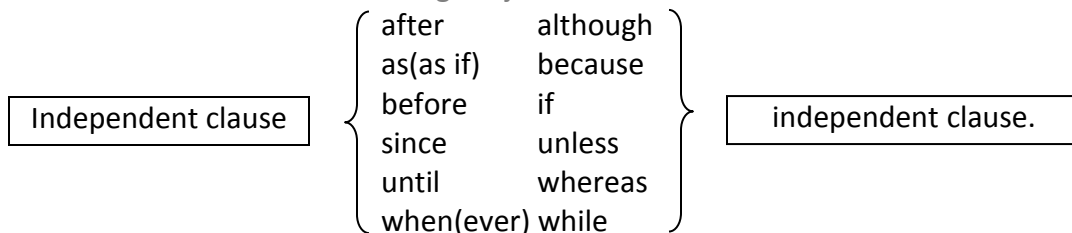


Transition words make the relationship between ideas very clear.

*Budget cuts have reduced resources at the college ; **however**, the writing center is still open.*

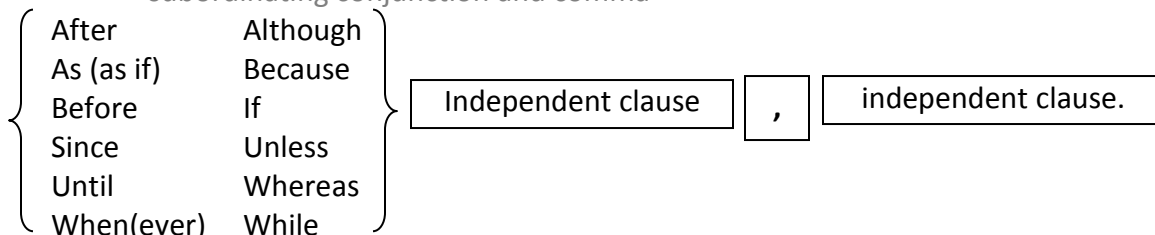
SUBORDINATION

subordinating conjunction



*Robin had to finish her homework **before** she went out with her friends.*

subordinating conjunction and comma



***Before** she went out with her friends, Robin had to finish her homework.*