

**SENTENCE ESSENTIALS - ENC 0002**  
**COMPLEX SENTENCES – REVIEW**

A **DEPENDENT CLAUSE** (subordinate clause)

- has a SUBJECT and VERB
- is NOT a complete thought because it begins with a SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTION, which turns it into an incomplete thought [if written by itself, a dependent clause is a FRAGMENT]

*Although I always eat lunch at noon.*

[Even with a subject (*I*) and verb (*eat*), this is not a complete thought because it begins with a subordinating conjunction.]

A **COMPLEX SENTENCE** has one DEPENDENT CLAUSE and one INDEPENDENT CLAUSE.

*Although I always eat lunch at noon, I am usually hungry by three.*

dependent clause

independent clause

A **DEPENDENT CLAUSE** must be connected to an independent clause, either at the BEGINNING or END.

- When the DEPENDENT CLAUSE COMES FIRST, it is followed by a COMMA.  
*Because it was raining , they called off the game.* [there is a comma because there is a pause]
- When the DEPENDENT CLAUSE COMES LAST, there is NO COMMA.  
*They called off the game because it was raining.* [there is no pause, so no comma]

**Common Subordinating Conjunctions** (also, see list p. 251)

after	because	if	that	when/whenever	whether
although	before	since	unless	where/wherever	while
as / as if	even though	so that	until / till	whereas	why

Note: Some of these words can be either SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS or PREPOSITIONS. They are subordinating conjunctions ONLY if they have a subject and verb after them.

**REVIEW OF COMMA RULES**

Use a comma when one of these appears BEFORE an INDEPENDENT CLAUSE:

- TRANSITIONAL WORD  
*Finally, I will get to meet your parents.*
- INFINITIVE PHRASE  
*To get to my house, you need to take the Turnpike.*
- PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE  
*After lunch, you need to take me to work.*
- DEPENDENT CLAUSE  
*After you have lunch, you need to take me to work*

REMEMBER: A COMPOUND SENTENCE with a coordinating conjunction takes a comma.

*I called my brother, and then I went over to visit him.*

A COMPOUND VERB does NOT take a comma.

*I called my brother and then went over to visit him.*

*Circle the SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS, and underline the DEPENDENT CLAUSES.*

1. Because she has children, Madonna has now written several children's books.
2. There were massive mud slides in Malaysia after the typhoon went through.
3. I don't want to take my car on a long trip because it needs a major tune-up.
4. I think that you are a gifted writer.
5. Since one team's bus broke down, the softball game had to be postponed.

*Fill in the blank with a SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTION that makes sense for the sentence.*

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Ted retires from the Coast Guard, he wants to live in Florida.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ many people lost their homes in New Orleans, we are taking donations for them.
8. Many of these flowers will start to bloom \_\_\_\_\_ we get some rain.
9. The workers had to exit the building \_\_\_\_\_ there was a fire drill.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ I was in a car accident, my back hurt for several months.

*Mark the sentences in which the underlined word is being used as a SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTION.*

11. \_\_\_\_\_ Are you going to Disney World this summer like you always do?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ We like to go to Disney World in the summer.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ You have been absent five times since the beginning of the term.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ You have been absent five times since classes started in January.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ After you finish with that call, please join us on the patio.

*Tell whether the sentence is SIMPLE (1 independent clause), COMPOUND (2 independent clauses), or COMPLEX (1 dependent and 1 independent clause).*

16. My parents consider themselves to be liberal but are actually quite conservative.
17. Several hundred ballots could not be counted because they were received too late.
18. Many students are procrastinators, so they do not complete tasks on time.
19. For two weeks, your records cannot be released.
20. I ran for cover when I saw the lightning storm approach.

*Insert COMMAS in the sentences that need them. If the sentence needs no comma, write "C" next to it.*

21. I called the dentist and rescheduled my appointment.
22. I completed all of the paperwork that I could to apply for financial aid.
23. Before you make a final decision you should talk to your advisor.
24. When Houston practices his drums he can be heard for blocks.
25. I became a more confident writer after my short story was published.
26. Harry fell asleep and didn't see the end of the movie.