

INDEPENDENT & DEPENDENT CLAUSES

Independent and dependent clauses are two types of clauses in the English language. A clause is a **GROUP OF RELATED WORDS** that contain a subject and a verb. Clauses are the basic building blocks of sentences in the English language.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE - a group of words that contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.

Rosy studied for her English test at the library.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE - a group of words that contain a subject and verb but not a complete idea. It can't be a sentence on its own. Often marked by a dependent marker word (**after, although, as, as if, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order, to, since, though, unless, until, whatever, when, whenever, whether, while**) which makes it into a dependent clause:

WHEN *Rosy studied for her English test at the library.* = What happened when she studied? The idea is incomplete.

There are two types of words that can be used as **CONNECTORS** at the beginning of an independent clause: **CORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS** and **INDEPENDENT MARKER WORDS**.

CORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS - the seven coordinating conjunctions used as connecting words at the beginning of an independent clause are **and, but, for, or, nor, so,** and **yet**. When the second independent clause in a sentence begins with a coordinating conjunction, a comma is needed before the coordinating conjunction:

*Rosy studied for her English test at the library, **but** it was hard to concentrate because of the noise.*

INDEPENDENT MARKER WORDS - a connecting word used at the beginning of an independent clause (**also, consequently, furthermore, however, moreover, nevertheless, therefore**). They can always begin a sentence that can stand alone. When the second independent clause in a sentence has an independent marker word, a semicolon is needed before the independent marker word:

*Rosy studied for her English test at the library; **however**, it was hard to concentrate because of the noise.*