## Subordinators and Relative Pronouns

Both Begin Dependent Clauses

### Common Subordinators

- *after
- although
- as
- as if
- as soon as
- as though
- because
- *before
- even if
- even though
- †how
- if
- in order that
- §once
- †why

### Relative Pronouns

- †that
- †what
- †which
- †who
- †whom
- †whose
- †whoever
- †whichever
- whatever

---

* Also can be used as a preposition
† Also can be interrogative pronoun in questions
‡ Also can be a demonstrative pronoun
§ Also can be used as an adverb or adjective

© 2009 by Sierra College. This handout may be freely reproduced for educational purposes, but may not be published for profit.
Punctuating Dependent Clauses

1. Dependent Clause (comma) Independent Clause.
   
   When the cat is away , the mice will play.
   Because we studied hard , we passed the exam.

2. Independent Clause ( ) Essential (Restrictive) Dependent Clause.
   
   The tokay is a gecko that eats rodents and small birds.
   We passed the exam because we studied hard.

   
   She remembered her childhood , when life was simple.
   Many people suffer from mental illnesses , which are more common than one would think.

4. Independent ( ) [ Essential (Restrictive) Dependent Clause ] ( ) Clause.
   
   Workers who have flu symptoms should stay home.
   A paragraph which has specific details is more effective than one that does not.

   
   The golden poison dart frog , which lives in Colombia , is toxic enough to kill ten people.
   Charlotte and Emily Brontë , who had few toys as children , spent their time writing imaginative stories.

© 2009 by Sierra College. This handout may be freely reproduced for educational purposes, but may not be published for profit.