

Subordinators and Relative Pronouns

Both Begin Dependent Clauses

Common Subordinators

*after	since
although	so that
as	than
as if	‡that
as soon as	though
as though	unless
because	*until
*before	†when
even if	whenever
even though	†where
†how	whereas
if	wherever
in order that	whether
§once	*while
†why	

Relative Pronouns

‡that	
†what	whatever
†which	whichever
†who	whoever
†whom	whomever
†whose	

* 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

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.

3. Independent Clause (comma) Non-Essential (Non-Restrictive) Dependent Clause.

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.

5. Independent (comma) [Non-Essential (Non-Restrictive) Dependent Clause] (comma) Clause.

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.