

Clauses

Print this page: refer to it for this assignment & as needed throughout the semester.

Sentences have groups of words within them called clauses. There are primarily 2 types of clauses,

Main Clause The subject and predicate of a sentence will only be present in a MC.

S + V = CT (Complete Thought)

Ex: Sally likes ice cream

S + V

S = Subject

V = Verb

CT = Complete Thought

MC = Main Clause

DC = Dependent Clause

cc = coordinating conjunction

(and, but, so, yet, etc)

sc = subordinating conjunction

(however, henceforth, etc.)

Dependent Clause

S + V = no CT (no Complete Thought) The subject and predicate of a sentence will not be present in a DC.

Ex: Because Sally likes ice cream

S + V

When using clauses in a sentence they must be properly punctuated and coordinated (made to work together). Learn these few rules and instantly become a better, more easy to follow, and fascinating writer.

The Golden Rules of Clauses.

1 MC, cc MC

Sally likes ice cream, but Frank does not.

MC , cc MC

2 MC DC

She often has it for dessert because Sally likes ice cream.

MC DC

3 DC, MC

Because Sally likes ice cream, she often has it for dessert

DC , MC

4 MC; MC (only use this punctuation if the 2nd MC explains the first)

Sally likes ice cream; she often has it for dessert

MC ; MC

5 MC; sc, MC

Sally likes ice cream; therefore, she often has it for dessert.

MC ; sc , MC

These rules will also help you understand how to use:

commas

semicolons

coordinating conjunctions

subordination conjunctions

Pay attention to where and where not to use commas and semicolons.

Learning these rules will not only help you write correct sentences; they will help you write, interesting, elaborate, and sophisticated sentences. Simply link clauses together.

EX:

Sally likes ice cream, but Frank does not; however, he will give it another try because he likes Sally.

MC , cc MC ; sc , MC DC

rule 1

rule 5

rule 2

EX: When the concert began, the crowd went wild; they were jumping and dancing in their seats.

DC , MC ; MC

rule 3

rule 4

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