

Conjunctions

Coordinating Conjunctions:

Coordinating conjunctions join ideas of similar value. There are only a few. For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So (Use the mnemonic FAN BOYS to remember them). When using coordinating conjunctions to join two independent clauses, put a comma before the coordinating conjunction that begins the second independent clause.

For example:

The boy went to the store, and his friends went with him.

Sara thought the boy was cute, but her mom did not.

They could go to Taco Bell, or they could go to Burger King for lunch.

*Tip: Do not begin sentences with coordinating conjunctions. They can cause you to make sentence fragments, a serious usage error.

Subordinating Conjunctions:

Common Subordinating Conjunctions		
after	if	though
although	if only	till
as	in order that	unless
as if	now that	until
as long as	once	when
as though	rather than	whenever
because	since	where
before	so that	whereas
even if	than	wherever
even though	that	while

These conjunctions help join dependent clauses to independent clauses. Dependent clauses begin with these conjunctions.

If you begin a sentence with a dependent clause, put a comma after the dependent clause and before the independent clause.

For example:

After we got to the ice skating rink, we put our skates on.

Because the girl was short, she could not see the stage over the crowd.

Since it was cold out, she grabbed her jacket.

*Tip: Using a dependent clause without an independent clause causes a sentence fragment, a serious usage error.