

PUNCTUATION PATTERNS

1. independent clause.

EX: She sang beautifully.
All of them are coming.

Note: An independent clause is just a simple sentence. It can stand alone.

2. independent clause; independent clause.

EX: Karen wanted to be a nurse; Linda wanted to be a secretary.

John left the party early; he didn't like the company.

Note: Use a semicolon to separate independent clauses that show comparison or cause and effect relationship.

3. independent clause ,*and* independent clause.

or
but
nor
yet
for and etc.

EX: My brother bought the puzzle, but I put it together.
You should call your mother, or you should write to her. Alice baked the cake and ate it herself.

4. Independent clause; *therefore*, Independent clause.

however
nevertheless
consequently and etc.

EX: John loved watching TV; however, he hated soap operas.
Sonia hated her boss; nevertheless, she did a very good job.

Note: A word like *however* is preceded by a semicolon only when it joins two independent clauses. Like pattern two, you can join two sentences (clauses) with a semicolon. If you try to join them with a comma, you have a comma splice or a type of run-on sentence.

5. independent clause, *of course*, independent clause (continued).
it seems
on the other hand, and etc.

EX: I knew, of course, he would not be there.
Some of them, it seems, have not passed the class.

Note: When you split a sentence in two with an interrupting element, you add commas to show that the element can be removed from the sentence.

6. . If dependent clause, independent clause.
Because
Since
When
While
Although and etc.

EX: When he is in a hurry, he yells at other drivers.
When the boy won the race, his teammates hugged each other.

Note: A dependent clause cannot stand alone. When a dependent clause comes first in a sentence, the comma introduces the independent part of the sentence.

7. independent clause ,*if* dependent clause.
,because
,since
,when
,after
,although

EX: The girl was beautiful, although she had no brains.
Jane is certainly pleasant when she has had enough rest.
I will bring my tape if I can find it.

Note: The dependent clause in this type of pattern is a subordinate clause. It has a subject and verb, but it is unable to stand alone because it begins with a subordinate conjunction. There is no natural pause and no comma is used because the main part of the sentence has already passed. The word *although* is an exception and will have a comma before it.

8. Independent clause: A, B, and C.

EX: Margaret likes three boys: Mike, Cory, and Scott.
Dear Sir:
His life has centered on one thing: his mother.

Note: A colon can be used three ways. In the first example it introduces a list of things. A colon is used in this type of instance only when a verb such as *are* or *were* does not come directly before the list or series of items. In the second example the colon follows the salutation of a business letter. In the third example the colon is used to show completion or explanation of an idea.