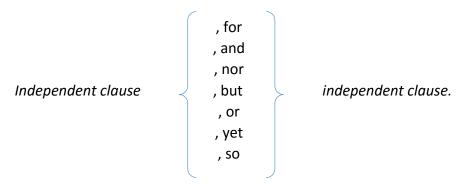
Five Useful Ways to Join Ideas

- An independent clause is a complete sentence which contains a subject and a verb; it expresses a complete thought.
- A *dependent clause* is a group of words with a subject and a verb. It does *not* express a complete thought, so it is not a sentence and can't stand alone.

Option 1: Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction—[FANBOYS]



Samples: Ron did not do well on the test, but he didn't even try.

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Option 2: Use a semicolon
Independent clause
; independent clause
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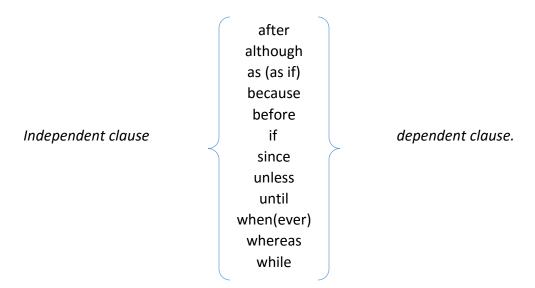
Sample: Ron did not do well on the test; he didn't even try.

Option 3: Use a semicolon with a transitional word and a comma

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; consequently,
; for example,
; furthermore,
; however,
; in fact,
; instead,
; meanwhile,
; nevertheless,
; otherwise,
; therefore,
```

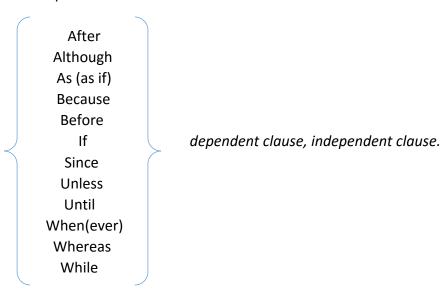
Samples: Ron didn't study for the test; however, he didn't even try.

Option 4: **Subordination**—When the subordinator is in the middle of the sentence, no comma is needed.



Samples: Ron did not do well on the test **because** he didn't even try. Ron did not do well on the test **since** he didn't even try.

Option 5: **Subordination**—When the subordinator is at the beginning of the sentence, a comma will follow the dependent clause.



Samples: Because Ron didn't study for the test, he did not do well.

Since Ron didn't study for the test, he did not do well.

Adapted from Susan Fawcett's, Grassroots with Reading.