**Comma Scenarios**

An **independent clause**…

· Stands on its own as a sentence.

A **dependent clause**…

· Is not a complete thought.

· Can’t stand on its own.

· Must be attached to an independent clause to be a complete sentence.

· Also known as a **subordinate clause.**

A **complex sentence**…

· Is an independent clause **AND** one or more dependent clause.

· Includes a **subordinate conjunction**.

**Subordinate Conjunctions That Show Contrast**

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| --- |
| *These can be used to start a sentence or appear in the middle:*  although  even though  though  while  whereas  unlike |

A **comma must** follow a dependent clause when it leads a **complex sentence**.

**Example 1:**

Although the weather was rainy**,** we took a short walk to our friend’s house.

\*Notice the comma after the word “rainy.”

**Example 2:**

I stayed up late to clean my hamster’s cage even though I was exhausted from a long day.

\*Notice that there is no comma after the subordinate conjunction “even though.”

Going back to **compound sentences…**

A “fancy” compound sentences joins two independent clauses with a semi-colon, conjunctive adverb, and comma in the middle.

**Conjunctive Adverbs that Show Contrast**

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| nevertheless  however |

Example:

I do not like winter: nevertheless, I enjoy sledding.

**Conjunctive Adverbs that Show Similarities**

|  |
| --- |
| similarly  likewise |

Example: Mrs. Gasparovic adores cats; likewise, I am a self-proclaimed crazy cat lady.