

Name: _____
Date: _____
Period: _____

Complex Sentences

A **complex sentence** has two parts: an *independent clause (simple sentence)* and a *dependent clause*. A *subordinating conjunction* is used to connect the dependent clause to the independent clause.

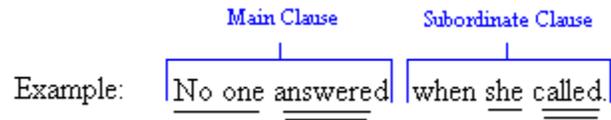
- **Subordinating conjunction:** used to connect two complete ideas by making one of the ideas dependent on the other. To *subordinate* means: *to place below another in rank or importance*.

<u>Frequently Used Subordinating Conjunction</u>		
after	before	till
although	even though	unless
as	if	until
as if	in order that	when
as long as	since	whenever
as soon as	so that	where
as though	than	wherever
because	though	while

- A *subordinate clause* cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence; it can only be part of a sentence. Subordinate clauses differ in that they do not complete thoughts by themselves. Although each of the italicized clauses in the following examples has a subject and a verb, none expresses complete thought or can stand by itself as a sentence. Each works with an independent clause to form a complete idea.

Because he woke up late, he missed the train.
I think *that you should study more*.

- An independent clause in a complex sentence is called the *main clause* to distinguish it from the subordinate clause or clauses. This clause and the other clauses have their own subjects and verbs. Those in the independent clause are called *subject of the sentence* and the *main verb*.



- **Rewriting run-ons to form a complex sentence:** If the two sentences in a run-on are related to one another, they can often be rewritten as a complex sentence. That is, the information in one sentence may be put into a subordinate clause.

Consider the two sentences in the following run-on:

Run-On: Some bright students do not go to college it costs too much.

The second sentence tells *why* some bright students do not go to college. With the addition of a word such as *because*, the second sentence becomes subordinate to the first.

Subordinate Clause

Complex Sentence: Some bright students do not go to college because it costs too much.