Useful Ways to Join Ideas

Joining ideas in sentences is known as coordination. Two types of conjunctions used to connect ideas are known as **coordinating conjunctions** and **subordinating conjunctions**.

- **Coordinating conjunctions:** A coordinating conjunction is used to join **two independent clauses**. The seven most common coordinating conjunctions are *for, and, nor, but, or, yet,* and *so*, which are typically referred to as FANBOYS.

  o **Independent clauses** have at least one subject and verb. Independent clauses are also known as insubordinate clauses.

    Independent clause: I wanted help brainstorming ideas for an essay.
    Independent clause: A tutor helped me outline my ideas.

    ▪ Independent clauses can stand as a sentence on their own. However, it is also possible to combine these two independent clauses into one sentence using a **comma** and **coordinating conjunction**.

  Example: I wanted to write my essay today**, and** a tutor helped me outline my ideas.

- **Subordinating conjunctions:** Words that are used to link ideas. A subordinate conjunction can go before or after the main clause and forms a dependent clause.

  o **Dependent clauses** (also known as subordinate clauses) have a subject and a verb like an independent clause, but they are not complete sentences. Dependent clauses always begin with subordinating conjunctions (such as *until, while, since, when,* and *because*). In the following examples, the dependent clauses are underlined.

  Example: While I was at the Teaching and Learning Center, I got help with my paper.

    Note: The underlined dependent (subordinate) clause needs a comma and another clause to make it a complete sentence. Not all subordinate conjunctions can start a sentence.

  Example: I got help with my paper while I was at the TLC.

    Note: There is no comma needed if the clause is *after* an independent (insubordinate) clause.

<u>Five Useful Ways to Join Ideas</u>

Option 1:	*Independent clause*	<u>**Coordination**</u> , for , and , nor , but , or , yet , so	*independent clause.*
Option 2:	*Independent clause*	**;**	*independent clause.*
Option 3:	*Independent clause*	; consequently, ; furthermore, ; however, ; in addition, ; indeed, ; in fact, ; moreover, ; nevertheless, ; then, ; therefore,	*independent clause.*
Option 4:	*Independent clause*	<u>**Subordination**</u> after although as (as if) because before if since unless until when(ever) whereas while	*dependent clause.*
Option 5:	<u>**Subordination**</u> After Although As (as if) Because Before If Since Unless Until When(ever) Whereas While	*dependent clause, independent clause.*	