

# Independent and Subordinate Clauses – Study Notes

## Helpful Tips

- Review your list of some common subordinating conjunctions:

after      although      as      because      before      even if  
even though      if      in order that      lest      rather than  
since      that      though      unless      until      when      whenever  
where      whereas      wherever      whether      while

- If you want to write subordinate clauses, don't use conjunctions like "and" or "so" or the other coordinating conjunction words (the FANBOYS).
- The words "therefore" and "however" are not subordinating conjunctions.
- Remember: If a phrase is a subordinate clause, it will have a subject and a verb.  
**after the party = not a subordinate clause**  
**after we partied = yes, a subordinate clause**  
**after Terry went to the party = yes, a subordinate clause**

## Practice Activities

**Part I. Read the underlined clause and identify it as either independent or subordinate.**

1. Before he got to the bank, Rocco ended up with a flat tire on his SUV. \_\_\_\_\_
2. While Toni searched the park, Maryanne looked for her phone in the bushes. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Yesterday Sam decided not to go jogging because the rain was so heavy. \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II. In each sentence, underline the independent clause.**

4. If you decide to buy this table, you will quickly discover its excellent craftsmanship.
5. Paul placed butter, flour, and milk on the counter since he wanted to make a cream sauce for the broccoli.

**Part III. In each sentence, underline the subordinate clause and circle the subordinating conjunction.**

6. Toma realized the dangers of her trail after she looked over the side of the cliff.
7. Although we had visited the Grand Canyon before, we were still amazed at its grandeur.

**Part IV. Combine each pair of sentences into one well-written complex sentence (using a subordinate clause with an independent clause). Make sure the meaning is sensible. If a comma is needed, use it correctly.**

8. Shannon never received the message. She went to the game and found out it was cancelled.

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**Part V. In the space below, write your own complex sentences that contain independent and subordinate clauses. Use commas correctly if they are needed.**