

Subordination

In the military, a hierarchy exists; **for example**, privates are subordinate to corporals, corporals are subordinate to sergeants, and sergeants are subordinate to lieutenants. **In** the English language, hierarchies also exist: phrases and dependent clauses are always subordinate to independent clauses. They require independent clauses to complete their thoughts. This subordination is demonstrated by their need to be attached to independent clauses. **If** they are attached at the beginning of the sentence, they must always be attached with a comma.

An independent clauses can be defined as _____

A dependent clauses is _____

A phrases is _____

Phrases and dependent clauses often begin with prepositions, participles, infinitives and adverbs.

Prepositions

because behind by
as at about apart from
along according to among after
until upon with within without
below beneath beside concerning despite
during except from in inside instead into like
near next of off on onto out outside over regarding
since through throughout till toward under underneath unlike

Past Participles

breaded buttered battered beset
lost forgotten trodden horrified
prepared flavored consumed
frightened thrilled excited

Present Participles

buttering battering running hearing
losing forgetting treading horrifying
preparing flavoring consuming
hoping thrilling exciting

Infinitives: to simmer to summarize to compliment

Absolutes: eyes glistening dreams destroyed

arms folded pistons pounding

adverbs: after although

because even if

though whether

when while

Warning

Practice punctuating the following sentences that each begin with a phrase or dependent clause.

Prepositions

1. Behind the dining room door a loaded shotgun was hidden.
2. During the following weeks images of forbidden fruit and vampires flooded her thoughts.
3. Instead of walking away from danger he flirted with it.
4. Unlike generations before he was unwilling to believe in ancient superstitions.
5. Beneath towering, moss-covered trees they followed the path deep into danger.

Participles

1. Breaded with Panko crumbs popular in Japan the chicken is crispy and delectable.
2. Chattering angrily the squirrel scampered between the boulders.
3. Beset with problem after problem the project finally just disintegrated.
4. Thrilled by her good fortune the ballerina pirouetted across the stage.
5. Hoping to captivate his readers he crafted his novel with precision and great care.

Infinitives

1. To be or not to be that is the question. - William Shakespeare
2. To summarize follow the instructions listed on the assignment sheet.
3. To elaborate on her writing style it is concise yet descriptive, cryptic yet eloquent.
4. To simmer onions heat butter in a saucepan until it bubbles, then add the onions, stir, and decrease the heat.
5. To eliminate any possibility of confusion this concept will be summarized tomorrow.

Absolutes

1. Her eyes glistening with tears she turned and bolted for the door.
2. Arms folded resolutely he refused to be swayed by the angry crowd.
3. Pistons pounding furiously the engine roared to life.
4. Each hand bearing a treasure she walked slowly to the table.
5. Eyes focused on the puddles he watched the rain splatter as it fell upon the road.

Adverbs

1. Because her happiness was so important to him he agreed to buy the expensive ring.
2. If he had been wise he would have recognized a flaw in her character.
3. While the ring was beautiful their lives were already heavily burdened with debt.
4. As she watched the blue and red light reflect from the cuts of the diamond a smile gathered about her lips and dimples dotted her soft cheeks.
5. Although he knew they might later regret the decision for now both were happy.