

COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence has one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

A dependent clause is a group of words with a subject and verb that cannot stand alone.

Examples:

I like Sally because she is funny.

Kathy will be late for dinner since the meeting is still in progress.

The game will end when one team scores.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Subordinating conjunctions are words that show the relationship of the dependent clause to the independent clause.

Some words that can be used as subordinating conjunctions are:

after

even if

since

although

even though

so that

as

if

than

as if

in order that

though

as long as

just as

unless

as soon as

like

until

as though

once

when

because

provided

whenever

before

rather than

while

SEQUENCING COMPLEX SENTENCES

Dependent Clause First (comma needed)

When I get to Phoenix, you will be sleeping.

After the players practiced, they went out for a pizza.

Until the storm is over, we will not know about the damage.

Independent Clause First (comma not needed)

You will be sleeping when I get to Phoenix.

The players went out for a pizza after they practiced.

We will not know about the damage until the storm is over.

