

Punctuating complex sentences.

A complex sentence has an independent clause (which is a complete sentence all by itself) and a subordinate clause (which begins with a word like after, although, while, when, until, unless, because, since, if, etc. Remember that a subordinate clause WOULD be a complete sentence by itself if you took off that first word.)

Independent: It was raining.

Subordinate: While it was raining...

If the subordinate clause comes at the beginning of the sentence, you must put a comma after it. However, if the subordinate clause comes in the second half of the sentence, no comma should be used.

Directions: Put commas as needed into the following complex sentences. Circle the coordinating conjunction. If a sentence does NOT need a comma, put a check mark at the end of the sentence.

1. Jason decided to stay up late because he had a lot of homework to do. ✓
2. If you hurry, we might get to school on time.
3. Although she had a cold, Monica went to school to take her test. ✓
4. While he was washing the car, Dave slipped on the soap.
5. After we arrived at the party, Dana put on some music.
6. As his heart pounded with dread, Ben bolted up the stairs to check out the strange noise.
7. Moly baked brownies since she had nothing else to do. ✓
8. When I discovered a mouse in my locker, I almost passed out. ✓
9. You'll never pass that class until you decide to study more often. ✓
10. It rained for three days before the streets in my neighborhood flooded. ✓
11. Since I forgot to set my alarm, I got to practice late.
12. Kyle completed his homework before he shoved it in his binder. ✓
13. Luke mowed the lawn because the weeds were out of control. ✓
14. Because I stayed up late last night, I am tired today. ✓
15. Although Neil is a vegetarian, he still eats fish occasionally.
16. I borrowed a pencil from the teacher after my pen ran out. ✓
17. After Georgia gathered the pictures, she turned them into a collage.
18. The car was dead when we tried to start it. ✓
19. You can go to the park after you clean your room. ✓
20. While I did the dishes, my brother watched TV.