**COMPOUND:**
Use a comma before a *coordinating conjunction* that connects two independent clauses.

, for
, and
, nor
, but
, or
, yet
, so

Use a *semicolon* to connect two closely related or parallel independent clauses.

independent clause ; independent clause

Use a semicolon before and a comma after a *transition* that connects two independent clauses. If the transition is short, the comma may not be necessary.

; consequently,
; further,
; however,
; indeed,
; therefore,
; nevertheless,
; then

independent clause ; independent clause

**COMPLEX:**
The placement of a subordinate clause determines the punctuation of the clause. Use a comma following an introductory subordinate clause to separate it from the independent clause.

After
Although
Because
If
Until
Whereas
While

subordinate clause , independent clause

When the subordinate clause follows the independent clause, no comma is needed unless the clause expresses contrast or exception (*although, while, whereas*).