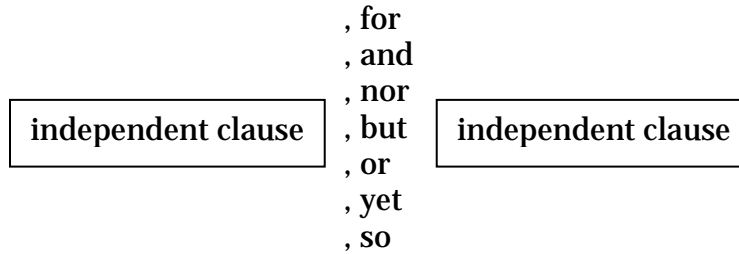




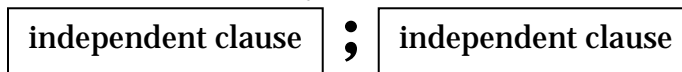
PUNCTUATING COMPOUND & COMPLEX SENTENCES

COMPOUND:

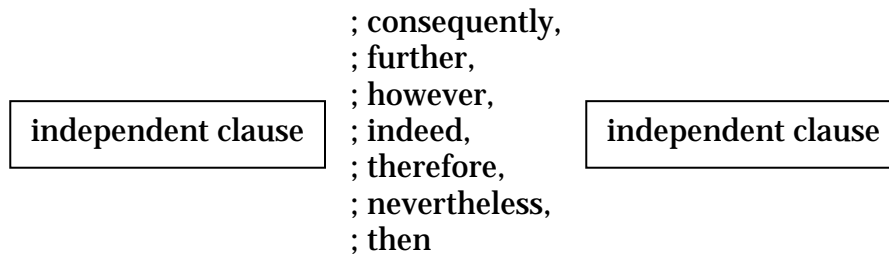
Use a comma before a *coordinating conjunction* that connects two independent clauses.



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



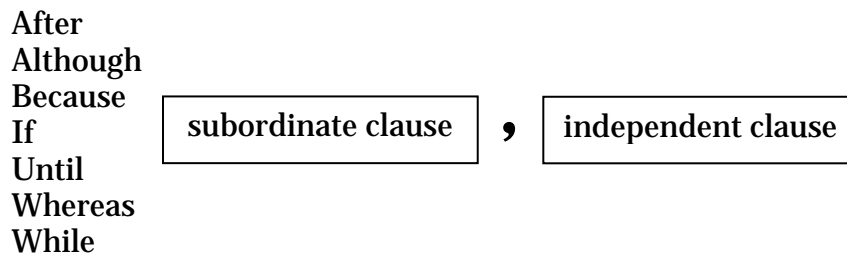
Use a semicolon before and a comma after a *transition* that connects two independent clauses. If the transition is short, the comma may not be necessary.



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.



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

Revised January 2004