

subordination

definition/rules

Combining clauses using a subordinating conjunction; **no comma if the dependent clause comes second**

examples

My Uncle Leo ate pizza after pizza until he puked on the queen.

The author uses her own rules of punctuation when it suits her. OR When it suits her, the author uses her own rules of punctuation.

conjunctive adverb

definition/rules

See the list below. They cannot be in the middle of a sentence (unless following a semicolon). They are usually set off by a comma.

examples

Dr. Reynolds had many suitors; nevertheless, she never married.

The use of the pronouns “you” and “your” give the impression that the narrator is speaking directly to the reader. Therefore, the reader feels a greater sense of identification with the narrator.

coordinating conjunctions	subordinating conjunctions		conjunctive adverbs
for	after	rather than	therefore
and	although	since	however
nor	as	so that	moreover
but	as if	than	nevertheless
or	as long as	that	consequently
yet	as though	though	as a result
so	because	till	accordingly
(FANBOYS)	before	unless	also
	even if	until	besides
	even though	when	consequently
	if	whenever	furthermore
	if only	where	indeed
	in order that	whereas	otherwise
	now that	wherever	then
	once	while	

an additional comma rule: starting with prepositional phrases

definition/rules

A prepositional phrase is a preposition (see the list) followed by a noun phrase. Usually they come at the end of a sentence, but they can start a sentence. When a sentence starts with a prepositional phrase, it needs to be separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma. (If the phrase and sentence is very short, it can be left out.)

examples

In the warmer climates of sub-Saharan Africa, mosquito-borne illnesses are more common.
On the other hand, some people object to public nudity.

common prepositions ('the box' test)

about	behind	from	on	toward	around	during	near	since	within	
above	below	in	on top of		under	at	except	of	through	without
across	beneath		in front of		onto	underneath				
after	beside	inside	out of	until	before	for	off	to		
against	between		instead of		outside	up				
along	by	into	over	upon	among		down	like	past	with