

## Punctuation Pattern Sheet

A sentence is an independent clause. *Alf is a puppet.*

- Join independent clauses with the semicolon  
Independent Clause; Independent Clause.

*Alf is a puppet; R2D2 is a robot.*

- Or join independent clauses by a comma with a conjunction.  
Independent Clause, conjunction Independent Clause.

<i>Alf is a puppet</i>	, <b>and</b>	<i>R2D2 is a robot.</i>
<i>Either Alf is the t-v alien</i>	, <b>or</b>	<i>R2D2 is the alien.</i>
<i>Neither Alf is an alien</i>	, <b>nor</b>	<i>R2D2 is an alien.</i>
<i>They are not aliens</i>	, <b>for</b>	<i>there is no such thing.</i>
<i>There is no evidence</i>	, <b>but</b>	<i>the lack of evidence is not proof.</i>
<i>Alien beings may exist</i>	, <b>so</b>	<i>some believe in alien beings.</i>
<i>Alien beings may exist</i>	, <b>yet</b>	<i>I doubt their existence.</i>

- **Commas separate** words and phrases so that they do not run together.  
*The android brought his bat, ball, and glove to the ball park.*

- Separate introductory words and phrases with commas even when joining independent clauses by semicolons.

Independent Clause; introductory word, Independent Clause.

*; however,  
; therefore,  
; consequently,  
; likewise,  
; moreover,  
; then,  
; still,  
; also,  
; otherwise,  
; nevertheless,  
; in fact,  
; for example,  
; furthermore,  
; instead,*

*Alf is a puppet; however, R2D2 is a robot, and both are aliens.*

- Separate introductory clauses with commas or you will have run on sentences.  
*Dependent clause, Independent clause.*

Words that cause a clause to be dependent:

<i>after</i>	<i>before</i>	<i>during</i>	<i>while</i>	<i>when</i>	<i>whenever</i>
<i>once</i>	<i>till</i>	<i>until</i>	<i>as</i>	<i>as if</i>	<i>as long as</i>
<i>if</i>	<i>whether</i>	<i>since</i>	<i>because</i>	<i>although</i>	<i>though</i>
<i>which</i>	<i>where</i>	<i>whereas</i>	<i>wherever</i>	<i>what</i>	<i>whatever</i>
<i>who</i>	<i>whom</i>	<i>whose</i>	<i>how</i>	<i>why</i>	
<i>that</i>	<i>so that</i>	<i>provided that</i>		<i>in order that</i>	

- If a dependent clause follows the independent clause, it won't run on, so the comma is unnecessary.

Independent clause *dependent clause*.

- Separate nonrestrictive (nonessential) words with commas.

Independent, *nonessential words*, clause.

Mars, *the red planet*, will have a space colony.

That, *sir*, is not possible.

My experience, *however*, tells me that anything is possible.

A second colony, *I believe*, will locate on Neptune.

- Do not separate restrictive (essential) words.

Independent *essential* information clause.

The film *that I enjoyed for its special effects* is Star Wars.

The android *on her left* is her butler.

- Separate afterthoughts as nonrestrictive.

Independent clause, afterthought.

Einstein explained the theory of relativity, *E=mc<sup>2</sup>*.

- Use a colon at the end of an independent clause when adding a list.

Independent clause: *word, word, word.*

*phrase, phrase, phrase.*

*clause; clause; clause.*