Sentence Patterns
A Quick Reference


Simple Sentence

Independent clause .

Sentences with Semicolons

Independent clause ; independent clause .

Independent clause ; therefore, independent clause .

however
nevertheless
consequently
(etc.)

Sentences with Commas

Independent clause , For independent clause .

And
Nor
But
Or
Yet
So

Clause, phrase, or word , nonessential elements , independent clause .

After dependent clause , independent clause .

Although
Before
If
Since
When
While

Southeastern Writing Center
Celebrating the Writer’s Voice
383 D. Vickers Hall
(985) 549-2076 ~ writing@selu.edu
http://www.selu.edu/acad_research/programs/writing_center
Sentences with Colons

Independent clause : listing of a series.

Independent clause : explanation or elaboration.

Sentences with Subordination

Independent clause after independent clause.
although before if since when while

Sentences with Quotes

Independent clause : “Quoted sentence.”

“Quote,” introductory tag.

Introductory tag, “Quote.”

“Quote,” introductory tag, “quote.”