Punctuation Patterns

Proper punctuation signals meaning and relationships of words and sentences. There are many punctuation rules, but here are some common patterns to become familiar with.

1. **Simple sentence**
   
   Independent clause .

2. **Compound sentence with coordinating conjunction**
   
   Independent clause , { for but and or nor yet so } independent clause .

3. **Coordination with a semicolon**
   
   Independent clause ; independent clause .

4. **Coordination with semicolon and sentence connector**
   
   Independent clause ; { therefore however consequently furthermore nevertheless moreover } , independent clause .

5. **Complex sentence with subordinating conjunction**

   
   
   { After Although As (as if) Because Before If Since Unless Until Whereas When While }
   
   independent clause , independent clause .

6. **Sentence with a parenthetical clause**
   
   Clause , nonessential/extra info , clause .

7. **List or explanation**
   
   Independent clause : A, B, and C .

8. **Dialogue**

   “____________________,” she said. He said, “________________.”