Increasing Sentence Complexity

What is an Independent Clause?

It contains a subject and verb while expressing a complete thought. It can also stand alone and function as a sentence.

Ex. <u>We'll go to the theater</u>.

Dependent Clause

It also contains a subject and verb. However, it does not express a complete idea. It needs to be used with an independent clause as it does not function as a complete sentence on its own.

Ex. We'll go to the theater <u>when the movie is out</u>.

How do you connect Independent and Dependent Clauses?

➔ Coordinating Conjunction: used to connect words, phrases, and clauses.
  ◆ Ex. and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet, etc.
➔ Independent Marker Word: connecting word used at the beginning of an independent clause. A semicolon is needed before the independent marker word when used at the start of the second independent clause in a sentence,.
  ◆ Ex. also, furthermore, however, moreover, nevertheless, therefore, etc.
➔ Subordinating conjunctions: used to connect an independent and a dependent clause.
  ◆ Ex. after, when, as, before, once, since, until, while, etc.

Avoid Creating a Run-On Sentence!

Run-ons, comma splices, and fused sentences are names used to describe compound sentences with incorrect punctuation. Use one of the rules below to punctuate correctly:

➔ Join the two independent clauses with one of the coordinating conjunctions, and use a comma before the connecting word.
  ◆ Ex. _____, and _____.
➔ When you do not have a connecting word (or when you use a connecting word other than a coordinating conjunction) between the two independent clauses use a semicolon (;).
  ◆ Ex. _____;_____.
➔ Or
  ◆ Ex. _____; however,_____.

Steps to Build a Complex Sentence

1. Begin with an Independent Clause.
2. Add a Dependent Clause to give more details or information related to the Independent Clause.
3. Consider adding a relevant connecting word for your clauses.

Psst! Hey! Stop by CLAS to have a writing tutor review this with you!!

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Practice

Rewrite these sentences using different methods of connecting the clauses.
(Remember, punctuation counts!)

EX.   [I received a paycheck.]   [I began spending unwisely]
A. I began spending unwisely when I received a paycheck.
B. After I received a paycheck, I began spending unwisely.
C. Once I received a paycheck, I began spending unwisely.

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1. [The professor announced the test.]   [The class groaned.]

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. [I finished typing the paper.]   [I proofread it carefully.]

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Rewrite the following sentences using subordination rather than coordination.
(Remember punctuation counts!)

EX.   The bank was not open, so I used the ATM.
   A. Since the bank was not open, I used the ATM.

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1. Your cold is getting worse, so you should go see a doctor.

A. _____

2.   I turned on the fan, but my room was still hot.

A. _____

Practice writing your own complex sentences using the information provided in this hand out.

A. _____
_____

B. _____
_____

C. _____
_____

D. _____
_____

Resources: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/independent_and_dependent_clauses/runonsentences.html

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