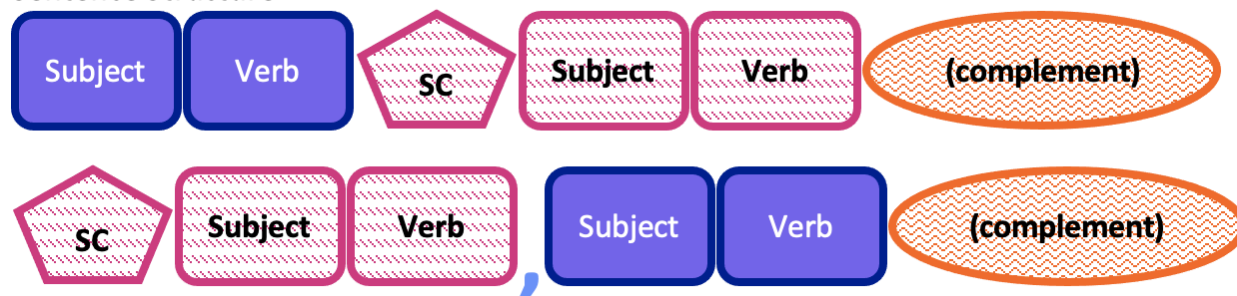


# Complex Sentences Part 1

## Sentence Structure



## Dependent Clauses

A dependent clause is an idea that is not complete. It has a subject and verb, but it also has a word that requires more detail.

*Because* is a clear example of a word that makes an idea a dependent clause. A clause that begins with *because* cannot be used alone. You need to connect it to an independent clause for the idea to be complete.

- Because I don't like to swim. (*Incomplete*)
- Because I don't like to swim, I do not go to the pool. (*Complete*)

When a sentence has a dependent clause and an independent clause, it is called a complex sentence. There are many different types of dependent clauses. We use the different clauses to show different connections between ideas.

## Time Clauses

A specific type of dependent clause is a time clause. These clauses have a time word that requires more information to show the sequence of actions. Common time words are *after*, *before*, *when*, *while*, *whenever*, *since*, and *until*.

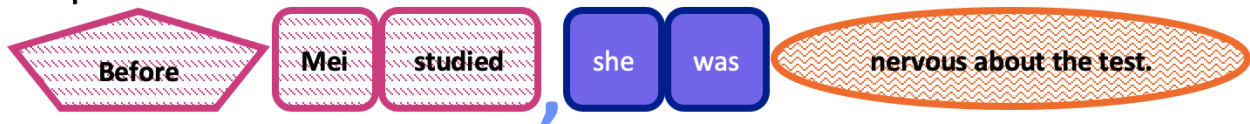
When you start a sentence with the dependent clause, you need a comma to connect the clauses.

- After – After she exercises, she goes to school.
  - The dependent clause is the first action in time.
- Before – Before I go to bed, I brush my teeth.
  - The dependent clause is the second action in time.
- When – When he drives, he listens to music.
  - The dependent clause is the first action in time.
- While – While I was studying at the ELC, I met my best friend.
  - The dependent clause started first but continues during the second action.
- Whenever – Whenever Bryan hears this song, he misses his home.
  - The dependent clause is the first action and causes the second action.
- Since – Since we started the semester, we have been classmates.
  - The dependent clause is the first action. The focus is on the period of time, usually between the first action and the present.
- Until – Until they graduate, they will need to focus on studying.
  - The dependent clause is the second action. The focus is on the period of time, usually between the present moment and the second action.

#### Example 1



#### Example 2



When you start the sentence with the independent clause, you do not need a comma to connect the sentences.

- After – She goes to school after she exercises.
- Before – I brush my teeth before I go to bed.
- When – He listens to music when he drives.
- While – I met my best friend while I was studying at the ELC.
- Whenever – He misses his home whenever Bryan hears this song.
- Since – We have been classmates since we started the semester.
- Until – They will need to focus on studying until they graduate.

#### Example 3



#### Example 4





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