

Grammar Acronyms

FANBOYS = mnemonic device for remembering **basic conjunctions**:

For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

SWABI = mnemonic device for remembering **subordinating conjunctions**:

Since, When, Although, Because, If ++

Subordinating Clause: A clause that depends on an independent clause. A subordinating clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Subordinating clause	,	Independent clause
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Subordinating Conjunctions: Typically introduce time, place, or cause and effect at the beginning of a subordinating clause.

SWABI: since, when, although, because, if, after, although, as long as, before, even if, even though, if in, once, since, so that, though, unless, until, whenever, wherever, while.

Example 1: Because he wanted to get an A on his chemistry exam, Dan studied for hours.

Example 2: If you are not sure about this, let me know now.

Do not use a comma when the sentence starts with an independent clause followed by a subordinating clause.

Independent clause	Subordinating clause
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Example 3: Dan studied for hours because he wanted to get an A on his chemistry exam.

Example 4: Let me know now if you are not sure about this.

THAMO = mnemonic device for remembering **conjunctive adverbs**

Therefore, However, Also, Moreover, Otherwise ++

Conjunctions have one job, to connect. They join words, phrases, or clauses together to clarify what the writer is saying. Their presence provides smooth transitions from one idea to another.

When the job of an adverb is to connect ideas, we call it a conjunctive adverb.

THAMO: therefore, however, also, moreover, otherwise, accordingly, also, besides, consequently, conversely, finally, furthermore, hence, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, nevertheless, next, nonetheless, similarly, still, subsequently, then, thus.

A conjunctive adverb can join two main clauses. In this situation, the conjunctive adverb behaves like a coordinating conjunction, connecting two complete ideas. Notice, however, that you need a semicolon, not a comma, to connect the two clauses:

Main Clause	;	Conjunctive Adverb	,	Main Clause.
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Read these examples:

The dark skies and distant thunder dissuaded Clarice from her afternoon run; moreover, she had thirty calculus problems to solve for her morning class.

Leon's apartment complex does not allow dogs over thirty pounds; otherwise, he would have bought the gangly Great Dane puppy playing in the pet store window.

The cat ate a bowlful of tuna; then, to the squirrels' delight, the fat feline fell asleep in the rocking chair.

A conjunctive adverb will also introduce, interrupt, or conclude a single main clause. In this situation, you will often need commas to separate the conjunctive adverb from the rest of the sentence.