

Commas After Subordinate Clauses



Use a **comma** to separate a **main clause** from a **subordinate clause** in a sentence — but only when the **subordinate clause** comes **first**.

While I'm at the gym, I listen to my music.

The **main clause** makes sense on its own. It's the **most important** part of a sentence.

You don't need a **comma** if the subordinate clause is at the **end** of a sentence.

A sentence with a **main clause** and a **subordinate clause** is a **complex sentence**.

I listen to my music while I'm at the gym.

A **subordinate clause** doesn't make sense on its own. It's **less important** than the main clause.

1 Add commas in the correct places in the sentences below.

Once I'd finished eating I started reading my new book.

As I got on the bus I dropped my bag.

Although I am scared of sharks I love visiting the aquarium.

Rather than going out we stayed in and watched a film.

2 Underline the subordinate clauses and add commas where needed.

While you were distracted I swapped our plates.

You can go to the party as long as you wear something sensible.

Now that you've told me that everything makes much more sense.

Until we've found the solution we'll keep trying to work it out.

I'll come and help you as soon as I can.

Since we're all here I'd like to tell you something.

3 Put commas in the sentences that need them.

I'm really tired because I've been walking all day.

When I realised what I'd done I apologised immediately.

Bob started laughing after we'd told him the joke.

Although I like the album this song isn't my favourite.

As you're older than me you should go first.

4 Rewrite these sentences with commas in the correct places.

Even though it was cold I wanted ice cream.

Despite the fact we lost we still had fun.

Whereas Tom is calm Tim is always stressed.

Before I left the house I turned the lights off.

5 Add a subordinate clause to complete each of these sentences. Remember to use commas correctly.

..... I need to ring my sister.

..... Jim wasn't offended.

..... Simon wasn't scared.

"I can use commas after subordinate clauses."

