**Coordinating and Subordinating Conjunctions**

**I.**

**Coordinating conjunctions are used to join independent clauses to make compound sentences.** The coordinating conjunctions are as follows:

**and nor** /**or**

**but** **so**

**for yet**

You can use coordinating conjunctions to revise run-on sentences and comma splices (see above). You can also use coordinating conjunctions to make writing less choppy by joining short, simple sentences. Consider the following examples.

**independent clauses:** I wanted more popcorn. Sam wanted Junior Mints.

**joined together:** I wanted more popcorn, but Sam wanted Junior Mints.

In the above example, it is necessary to put a comma before the coordinating conjunction but because there are two independent clauses being combined. Another way to think of this is that I wanted more popcorn and Sam wanted Junior Mints could stand on their own as independent sentences. So, there must be a comma and a conjunction between them.

**independent clauses:** I wanted more popcorn. I didn’t want any more soda.

**joined together:** I wanted more popcorn but no soda.

In this example, we’ve combined the sentences with the coordinating conjunction ***but***. We’ve also eliminated some of the words so that the sentence wouldn’t sound redundant. In this case, it isn’t necessary to put a comma before ***but*** because there are no longer two independent clauses joined together.

**II.**

**Subordinating conjunctions are used to join independent clauses to make complex sentences.** The subordinating conjunctions are as follows:

**after**

**although**

**as / as if**

**because**

**before**

**even if**

**even though**

**if / if only**

**rather than**

**since**

**that**

**though**

**unless**

**until**

**when**

**where**

**whereas**

**wherever**

**whether**

**which**

**while**

You can use subordinating conjunctions to correct run-on sentences and comma splices. And you can use them to combine sentences so that writing is less choppy. Consider the following examples.

**complex sentence**

I wanted to get more soda because it’s hard to eat popcorn without it.

In this sentence, the subordinate clause is at the end. It would also be correct to place the subordinate clause at the beginning of the sentence as follows:

Because it’s hard to eat popcorn without it, I wanted to get more soda.

Notice that when the subordinate clause comes at the beginning, it’s necessary to insert a comma.

**complex sentence**

1. While I was getting more soda and popcorn, I missed a really important part of the movie. (Subordinate clause at the beginning of the sentence).

2. I missed a really important part of the movie while I was getting more soda and popcorn. (Subordinate clause at the end of the sentence).