

# Improving Sentence Patterns: Dependent Clauses

A good writer will change sentence patterns to make the writing more interesting to the reader. One way to change the pattern is to put dependent clauses in different places. Often dependent clauses appear at the end of a sentence. Putting the clause in the middle or at the beginning may make the sentence more interesting.

**Example:**

We ate all the cookies although they didn't taste good.

Change to: 1) Although they didn't taste good, we ate all the cookies.

or 2) We ate, although they didn't taste good, all the cookies.

Rewrite the sentences below moving the dependent clauses to another place in the sentence. Be careful to keep the meaning of the new sentence the same as the original.

1. We picked Hannah because she is the best player.
2. The boys were best friends since Travis moved to town.
3. I must watch my little brother while my mother is at the store.
4. The cat hides under the bed when strangers come to the house.
5. The band will practice on Friday unless it rains.
6. The chickens were acting strangely right before the tornado came.
7. We don't have time to paint the walls although it is a good idea.
8. Rebecca wants to go to the library after the bake sale is done.

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Rewrite the sentences below moving the dependent clauses to another place in the sentence. Be careful to keep the meaning of the new sentence the same as the original.

**Student's answers will vary, however, the student should use commas after a dependent clause at the beginning of a sentence and before and after a dependent clause in the middle of a sentence. Examples of correct answers:**

1. We picked Hannah because she is the best player.

**Because she is the best player, we picked Hannah.**

2. The boys were best friends since Travis moved to town.

**Since Travis moved to town, the boys were best friends.**

3. I must watch my little brother while my mother is at the store.

**While my mother is at the store, I must watch my little brother.**

4. The cat hides under the bed when strangers come to the house.

**The cat, when strangers come to the house, hides under the bed.**

5. The band will practice on Friday unless it rains.

**Unless it rains, the band will practice on Friday.**

6. The chickens were acting strangely right before the tornado came.

**Right before the tornado came, the chickens were acting strangely.**

7. We don't have time to paint the walls although it is a good idea.

**We don't have time, although it is a good idea, to paint the walls.**

8. Rebecca wants to go to the library after the bake sale is done.

**Rebecca wants to go, after the bake sale is done, to the library.**