

Coordination and Subordination

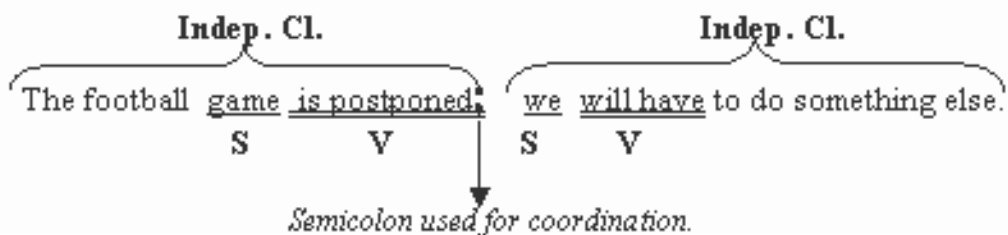
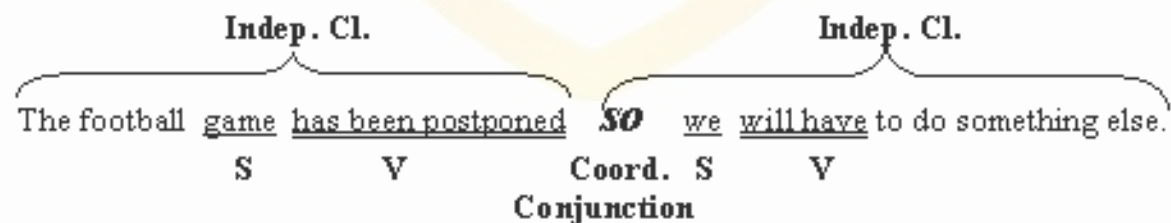
Coordination and Subordination are important concepts to understand because they allow a writer either to connect two independent clauses for concise writing or to separate two independent clauses and create a dependent clause in order to provide a cause and effect between the two ideas.

COORDINATION — uses coordinating conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs (with appropriate punctuation), or punctuation to combine short independent clauses into a single sentence. Coordination implies the balance of elements that are of equal semantic value in the sentence.

- 1) **Coordinating conjunctions** are the **FANBOYS**: “for”, “and”, “nor”, “but”, “or”, “yet”, “so.” Each conjunction implies a slightly different meaning than the other, so it’s important to choose the appropriate word for the relationship between the ideas being connected.
- 2) **Conjunctive adverbs** are also used to show sequence, contrast, cause and effect, and other relationships. Some conjunctive adverbs are “**however**”, “**accordingly**”, “**furthermore**”, “**also**”, etc. In most cases, a semicolon is needed to connect two clauses with a conjunctive adverb.

Example:

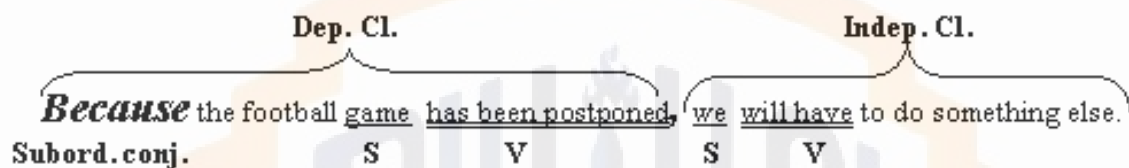
The football game has been postponed. We will have to do something else. (2 simple sentences with no coordination or subordination, but note how coordination occurs below).



SUBORDINATION — uses subordinating conjunctions or relative pronouns to transform independent clauses (main clauses or ideas) into dependent clauses (subordinate clauses or ideas). Subordinate clauses are subordinate to (and thus hold less semantic value than) the independent clause(s) to which they are linked.

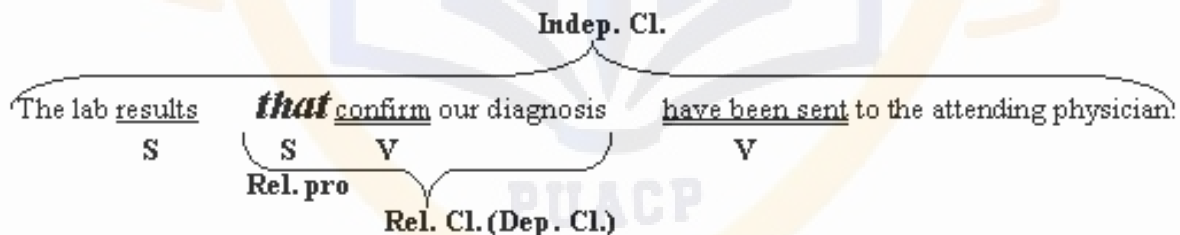
Example:

The football game has been postponed. We'll have to do something else. (2 simple sentences with no coordination or subordination but note how subordination occurs below).



Example:

The lab results confirm our diagnosis. They have been sent to the attending physician. (2 simple sentences with no coordination or subordination but note how subordination occurs below)



(The relative pronoun *that* turns the verb *confirm* into a verb in a dependent relative clause instead of the verb of an independent clause.)