Joining Clauses by Subordination
Common Subordinating Conjunctions

After
Although
As
As if
Because
Before
Even
Even if
Even though
If
In order to

Since
Though
Unless
Until
Whatever
When
Whenever
Whether
While
Dependent Clause

- A dependent clause cannot stand alone in a sentence. It must be linked with an independent clause to make a sentence.

- If a dependent is allowed to stand alone, it creates a sentence fragment (a no-no in writing). To fix, combine the dependent clause with an independent clause through what is called subordination.
Subordination

- **Subordination** is the process of joining a dependent clause with an independent clause.

  Dependent Clause:
  since the new polls don’t come out until tomorrow

  Independent Clause:
  We do not know where Georgia is ranked

  New Sentence:
  We do not know where Georgia is ranked since the new polls don’t come out until tomorrow.
Reversibility of Clauses

- At times, a writer may want to put the independent clause first:

  We do not know where Georgia is ranked since the new polls don’t come out until tomorrow.

- At other times, a writer may want to put the dependent clause first

  Since the new polls don’t come out until tomorrow, we do not know where Georgia is ranked.
Comma Rule

- Either order is correct, but when the dependent clause is first, a **comma** should be inserted between the dependent and independent clause.

Since the new polls don’t come out until tomorrow, we do not know where Georgia is ranked.

- There is no need for a comma when the independent clause is first.

We do not know where Georgia is ranked since the new polls don’t come out until tomorrow.
Another purpose of subordination is to combine two choppy sentences into a single flowing sentence:

- The crowd gasped. Todd Gurley rolled his ankle.

Since the two simple sentences are related, you can combine them to express the action more fluidly:

- The crowd gasped *when* Todd Gurley rolled his ankle.
Wrap-up/ Review

- Can a dependent clause ever make a sentence alone? What does it need?
  - No, it needs an independent clause.

- Can an independent clause make a sentence by itself?
  - Yes, because it expresses a complete thought.