Subordination and Coordination

Subordination: linking of dependent and independent clauses by either a <u>subordinating conjunction</u> or a <u>relative pronoun</u>

- A dependent clause CANNOT stand alone!
- Common subordinating conjunctions include *after*, *although*, because, *before*, *even though*, *if*, *so that*, *unless*, *when*.

    o Example: ***<u>Before Luke Skywalker could take on the Empire</u>****, he had to train with Yoda*.

        ➢ The underlined words in the above constitute a "subordinate clause": They contain a subject (*Luke Skywalker*) and a predicate (*could take on the Empire*), but they cannot stand alone—they are not an "independent" clause—because they begin with the subordinating conjunction *Before*.

        ➢ When a subordinate clause comes at the <u>beginning</u> of a sentence, as it does in the above example, follow it with a comma; when it comes at the <u>end</u> of a sentence, do not set it off with a comma:

            - **Wrong**: *Luke Skywalker had to train with Yoda, before he could take on the Empire.*

            - **Right:** *Luke Skywalker had to train with Yoda before he could take on the Empire.*

- Relative pronouns include *who*, *whom*, *which*, *that*, *whose*.

    o Examples: Harry Potter has a scar **that** <u>looks like a lightning bolt.</u>
    o This evening we ordered Chinese food, **which** <u>was quite tasty.</u>

        ➢ In the first example above, *that looks like a lightning bolt* is an "essential" subordinate clause: It is a necessary part of the sentence.
        ➢ In the second example, *which was quite tasty* is a "non-essential" subordinate clause: It's almost parenthetical, an "Oh, by the way, reader."
        ➢ In deciding whether to begin a subordinate clause with "that" or "which," determine whether the information in the clause is necessary. If it is, use "that"; if it isn't, use "which" and set off the clause with a comma (as shown above).

Coordination: linking of two phrases or clauses of equal rank

- Use a <u>coordinating conjunction</u>: *for*, *and*, *not*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, *so**
- Examples:
    o His classes meet *in SOBA **and** in Hyde*.
    o Contrary to popular belief, Frankenstein's monster was *well-spoken **and** sympathetic*.

- *She wanted to watch a movie with her roommate, **but** her professor assigned a paper due the next day.*

  - ➢ When a coordinating conjunction connects two independent clauses, as it does in the third example above, a comma precedes the conjunction.
  - ➢ When it connects constructions that are not independent clauses, no comma should precede the conjunction:

    - **Wrong:** *She wanted to watch a movie, **but** needed to write a paper.*

    - **Right:** *She wanted to watch a movie **but** needed to write a paper.*

*A good way to remember the list of coordinating conjunctions is to think about the word "FANBOYS":

For
And
Not
But
Or
Yet
So