

Specific Strategies for Grammatical Correctness

Punctuation Pattern Sheet

1. Independent clause .
2. Independent clause independent clause
3. Independent clause therefore independent clause
 however,
 nevertheless,
 consequently,
 furthermore,
 moreover,
 (etc.)
4. Independent clause and
 but
 for
 or
 nor
 so
 yet independent clause
5. Clause, phrase,
or word , nonessential clause,
 phrase, or word, clause, phrase,
or word .
6. If dependent clause , independent clause .
 Because
 Since
 When
 While
 Although
 After
 (etc.)

7. Independent clause if dependent clause
 because
 since
 when
 while
 although
 after
 (etc.)
8. Independent clause : A, B, and C.
9. “ _____ ,” she said.
 He said, “ _____ .”
 “ _____ ,” she said, “ _____ .”

A somewhat different representation (less visual, more formulaic) of comma and semicolon options has been developed by Robert Child for students who can identify clauses:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Correct patterns | Some possible wrong patterns |
| IC. IC. | IC, IC. |
| IC; IC. | IC IC. |
| IC; IM, IC. (or) IC. IM, IC. | |
| IC, CC IC. | |
| IC DM DC. | IC, DM DC. |
| DM DC, IC. | DM DC IC. |
| Key to abbreviations: | |
| IC = independent clause | |
| IM = independent marker (therefore, moreover, thus, etc.) | |
| DM = dependent marker (because, if, as, when, while, etc.) | |
| DC = dependent clause | |
| CC = coordinating conjunction (and, but, for , or nor, so , yet) | |

For students having trouble with inserting commas correctly in a series of modifiers, de Beaugrande (in *Writing Step by Step*, 340-341) recommends seeing if the modifiers can be moved around. If so, then a comma is needed.