

PUNCTUATING DEPENDENT CLAUSES (SUBORDINATE CLAUSES)

1. If the dependent clause is introductory, put a comma at the end of the dependent clause (subordinate clause).

After we ate lunch, we felt too lazy to mow the yard.

DC/SC

2. If the dependent clause comes at the end of the sentence, a comma is not needed UNLESS the dependent clause begins with a contrast word such as **although**, **though**, **even though**, or **whereas**.

OR

If there is a **who**, **whoever**, **which**, **whichever**, **whose**, **whom** clause that is unnecessary to the meaning, commas are needed.

3. If the dependent clause comes in the middle of a sentence, commas are placed around the clause if the clause is unnecessary or if the clause interrupts.

SAMPLE SENTENCES:

1. Maria Lopez, who studied hard, will pass.
(We already know who studied hard. The **who** clause does not help to define which person.)
2. The girl who won the contest will be flown to Miami.
(**Which** girl? Only a **certain** girl will be flown to Miami. She is defined as being the one who won the contest.)
3. Prisoners who demonstrate changed behavior will be released.
(Will **all** the prisoners be released?)
4. The corporation that makes paper tubes is moving to the industrial park.
(**Which** corporation?)
5. Tom's house, which is one of the largest in Pensacola, is located in Inverness.
(The **which** clause clearly contains nonessential information.)
6. Marlene was not invited to the intimate reunion because she has never really gotten along with her classmates.
(This follows the general rule that says no comma is used when the dependent clause comes last.)
7. Marlene's feelings were hurt by not being invited to the reunion, though she was never friendly to most of us anyway.
(The dependent clause comes last, but there is a contrast word used as a subordinating conjunction.)