Clauses

Sentences have groups of words within them called clauses. There are primarily 2 types of clauses,

Main Clause   The subject and predicate of a sentence will only be present in a MC.
**S + V = CT** *(Complete Thought)*
Ex: Sally likes ice cream
\[ S + V \]

Dependent Clause
**S + V = no CT** *(no Complete Thought)* The subject and predicate of a sentence will not be present in a DC.
Ex: Because Sally likes ice cream
\[ S + V \]

When using clauses in a sentence they must be properly punctuated and coordinated (made to work together). Learn these few rules and instantly become a better, more easy to follow, and fascinating writer.

*The Golden Rules of Clauses.*

1 **MC, cc MC**
Sally likes ice cream, but Frank does not.
\[
\text{MC} \quad \text{cc} \quad \text{MC}
\]

2 **MC DC**
She often has it for dessert because Sally likes ice cream.
\[
\text{MC} \quad \text{DC}
\]

3 **DC, MC**
Because Sally likes ice cream, she often has it for dessert.
\[
\text{DC} \quad \text{MC}
\]

4 **MC; MC** *(only use this punctuation if the 2nd MC explains the first)*
Sally likes ice cream; she often has it for dessert.
\[
\text{MC} \quad ; \quad \text{MC}
\]

5 **MC; sc, MC**
Sally likes ice cream; therefore, she often has it for dessert.
\[
\text{MC} \quad ; \quad \text{sc} \quad , \quad \text{MC}
\]

Learning these rules will not only help you write correct sentences; they will help you write, interesting, elaborate, and sophisticated sentences. Simply link clauses together.

**EX:**
Sally likes ice cream, but Frank does not; however, he will give it another try because he likes Sally.
\[
\text{MC} \quad , \quad \text{cc} \quad \text{MC} \quad ; \quad \text{sc} \quad , \quad \text{MC} \quad \text{DC}
\]

**EX:** When the concert began, the crowd went wild: they were jumping and dancing in their seats.
\[
\text{DC} \quad , \quad \text{MC} \quad ; \quad \text{MC}
\]

*These rules will also help you understand how to use:*
commas
semicolon
coordinating conjunctions
subordinating conjunctions

*Pay attention to where and where not to use commas and semicolons.*

Print this page, and refer to it as needed.