

How to Make Complex Sentences Using AAAWWUBBIS Words

There are two ways to construct a complex sentence:

AAWWUBBIS **DC**, **ic.**

IC + **AAWWUBBIS** **dc.**

1. Dependent clause starting with an AAWWUBBIS word + comma + independent clause = complex sentence
2. Independent clause + dependent clause starting with an AAWWUBBIS word

A **dependent clause** is a group of words that contains a noun and a verb, but does not contain a complete thought.

A **dependent clause** *depends* on the rest of the sentence to make sense. A dependent clause usually starts with a subordinating conjunction (AAAWWUBBIS).

AAAWWUBBIS words:

As
Although
After
While
When
Unless
Because
Before
If
Since

Examples of **dependent clauses** that start with an **AAAWWUBBIS** word:

As the day ended,
Although I tried to hurry,

After the game was over,
While we ate dinner,
When the bell rang,
Unless the rain stops,
Because the grass is so tall,
Before you go to bed,
If you want to go to the movies,
Since the dog ran away,

*None of the above **dependent clauses** make sense on their own because they don't express a complete thought. They depend on something else added after the comma to make sense.

The sentences below are examples of complex sentences where the dependent clause is first:

As the day ended, the family was gathered around the dinner table.
dependent clause independent clause

Although I tried to hurry, I didn't make it to class before the bell.
dependent clause independent clause

After the game was over, we went to Subway to eat.
dependent clause independent clause

The sentences below are examples of complex sentences where the dependent clause is second. No comma here except for special cases! :

The family was gathered around the dinner table as the day ended.
independent clause dependent clause

I didn't make it to class before the bell although I tried to hurry.
independent clause dependent clause

We went to Subway to eat after the game was over.
independent clause dependent clause