

DEPENDENT WORDS

Academic Skills Center Room 1501 Shoreline Community College

- RULE 1:** To be a **DEPENDENT WORD (DW)**, the word **MUST** be followed by an **S-V group**.
- RULE 2:** An S-V group starting with a DW is called a **DEPENDENT CLAUSE**.
- RULE 3:** If a sentence **starts with a DC**, a **comma** should follow the DC.
- RULE 4:** A DC cannot stand alone. A DC by itself is called a **FRAGMENT**. An *independent* clause (IC) must come either **before or after** a DC for the sentence to be complete.

after	in order that	whenever
although	just as	where**
as	like (= same as)	whereas
as if, as though	once (= as soon as)	wherever
because	since	whether
before	so that (= in order that)	which*
even if, even though	than (NOT then)	whichever*
ever since	that*	while
every time	though (but NOT if it	who***
everywhere	means "however")	whoever***
how**	unless	whom*
if	until	whomever*
inasmuch as	what***	whose***
	whatever	why**
	when	

* These are special dependent words called **RELATIVE PRONOUNS**.

** In questions these may NOT be DW's: Who did it? Whose is it?

*** Both of the above (* & **)

NOTE: It makes a **BIG DIFFERENCE** which DW you use.

Examples : She exercised **although** she was tired. (She did it anyway, even though she was tired.)
She exercised **because** she was tired. (She did it because she thought it would help.)

NOTE: It makes a **SUBTLE DIFFERENCE** where you choose to put your DC: The DC at the beginning can give the idea that it is the more important idea than the IC.

Examples : Because she was tired, she exercised. (emphasizes her tiredness)
She exercised because she was tired. (emphasizes her exercising)

NOT DEPENDENT WORDS (These words are **ADVERBS** or **ADVERBIAL CONJUNCTIONS**):

besides (when it means "also"), consequently, furthermore, hence, however (when it means "but"), in fact, indeed, moreover, nevertheless, subsequently, then, therefore, though (when it means "however"), thus.