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)
   everywhere which ever***
   how** unless
   if until whom*
   inasmuch as what***
   whenever whoever***
   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.