CLAUSES AND COMPLEX SENTENCES

Definitions

Phrase – is a group of words that lacks both a subject and a verb. (Remember, an -ing verb needs a helping verb in order to be the main verb of a sentence.)

Clause – is a group of words containing both a subject and a verb.

Dependent clause – also known as a subordinate clause, can never stand alone: in order to form a sentence, it must be joined to one or more independent clauses.

Independent clause – can stand alone as a sentence.

Rules

1. Two independent clauses can be joined in one sentence by just a semi-colon (;).

2. Two independent clauses can be linked in one sentence by two types of words: coordinating conjunctions and transitional expressions. Note that punctuation differs between the two types of joining words.
   a. Coordinating conjunctions: , for , and , nor , but , or , yet , so (You can remember these seven coordinating conjunctions by recalling ‘fanboys.’)
   b. Transitional expressions, also known as conjunctive adverbs. You may begin independent clauses with these:

   ; accordingly, ; also, ; anyhow, ; besides,
   ; consequently, ; furthermore, ; hence, ; henceforth,
   ; however, ; indeed, ; instead, ; likewise,
   ; meanwhile, ; moreover, ; nevertheless, ; otherwise,
   ; then, ; therefore, ; thus, ; still,

   And many more...

Continued...
3. A dependent or subordinate clause may be joined to an independent clause by a subordinating conjunction. Subordinating conjunctions include the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>After</th>
<th>Although</th>
<th>As</th>
<th>As if</th>
<th>As though</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Because</td>
<td>Before</td>
<td>Even</td>
<td>Even though</td>
<td>If</td>
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<tr>
<td>In order that</td>
<td>Now that</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>Rather than</td>
<td>Since</td>
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<td>So that</td>
<td>Than</td>
<td>That</td>
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<td>When</td>
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A dependent clause that comes before the independent clause is set off by a comma (,):

Because distance makes the heart grow fonder, the passion between them grew. subordinating conjunction + dependent clause, independent clause.

When the dependent clause comes after the independent clause, no comma is inserted:

The passion between them grew because distance makes the heart grow fonder. independent clause + subordinating conjunction + dependent clause.

However, a non-essential dependent clause – that is, a dependent clause that modifies a noun or verb and is not necessary to the meaning of the word it modifies – is always set off by commas:

Their passion, which had caught them both by surprise, grew into an obsession. subject of indep. clause, non-essential dependent clause, remainder of indep. clause.