



## Sentence Punctuation Patterns

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To punctuate a sentence, you can use and combine some of these patterns. For more information on independent and dependent clauses plus independent and dependent markers, see the following page on independent and dependent clauses. ([http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g\\_clause.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g_clause.html) for those of you reading a print copy.)

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### Pattern One: Simple sentence

Independent clause .

Example: Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma.

Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma .

This pattern is an example of a simple sentence.

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### Pattern Two : Compound Sentence

Independent clause , coordinating conjunction independent clause .

There are seven coordinating conjunctions: **and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet.**

Example: Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma, but they don't know the reasons for it.

Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma , but they don't know the reasons for it .

This pattern is an example of a compound sentence.

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### Pattern Three: Compound Sentence

Independent clause ; Independent clause .

Example: Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma; they are unsure of its cause.

Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma ; they are unsure of its cause .

This pattern is an example of a compound sentence.

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### Pattern Four: Compound Sentence

Independent clause ; independent marker , independent clause .

Examples of independent markers are the following: **therefore, moreover, thus, consequently, however, also.**

Example: Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma; therefore, they have called for more research into its causes.

Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma ; therefore , they have called for more research into its causes .

This pattern is an example of a compound sentence.

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### Pattern Five: Complex Sentence

Dependent marker + dependent clause	,	Independent clause	.
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Examples of dependent markers are as follows: **because, before, since, while, although, if, until, when, then, after, as, as if.**

Example: Because doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma, they have called for more research into its causes.

Because doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma	,	they have called for more research into its causes	.
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This pattern is an example of a complex sentence.

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### Pattern Six

Independent clause	dependent marker + dependent clause	.
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Examples of dependent markers are as follows: **because, before, since, while, although, if, until, when, then, after, as, as if.**

Example: Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma because it is a common, treatable illness.

Doctors are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma	because it is a common, treatable illness	.
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This pattern is an example of a complex sentence.

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### Pattern Seven

First part of an independent clause	,	non-essential clause or phrase	,	rest of the independent clause	.
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For an example of non-essential clauses and phrases, see *Commas With Non Essential Elements* ([http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g\\_commaess.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g_commaess.html) for those of you reading a print copy).

Example: Many doctors, including both pediatricians and family practice physicians, are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma.

Many doctors	,	including both pediatricians and family practice physicians	,	are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma	.
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### Pattern Eight

First part of an independent clause	essential clause or phrase	rest of the independent clause	.
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For an example of non-essential clauses and phrases, see *Commas With Non Essential Elements* ([http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g\\_commaess.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g_commaess.html) for those of you reading a print copy).

Example: Many doctors who are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma have called for more research into its causes.

Many doctors	who are concerned about the rising death rate from asthma	have called for more research into its causes	.
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For more about punctuating sentences and grammar, see our grammar handouts section at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/index.html>.

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The following information must remain intact on every handout printed for distribution.

This page is located at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/grammar/g\\_sentp.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/grammar/g_sentp.html)

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