

# PUNCTUATION PATTERN SHEET

Online: [www.ufv.ca/writing\\_centre](http://www.ufv.ca/writing_centre)

**Independent** (or main) clauses can stand as sentences; that is, they have both a subject and a predicate. **Dependent** (or subordinate) clauses cannot stand as sentences and are typically preceded by an introductory word. Below are some examples to help you recognize when to use punctuation, and what form that punctuation should take.

**1. Independent clause.**

Monica visited her uncle.  
subject predicate

**2. Independent clause;**

Monica visited her uncle;

**independent clause.**

he was pleased to see her.

**3. Independent clause;**

Monica visited her uncle;

**adverbial,**  
therefore,  
however,  
nevertheless,  
consequently,  
furthermore,  
moreover,

**independent clause.**

he made lots of pasta.

**4. Independent clause,**

Monica visited her uncle,

**conjunction**  
and

**independent clause.**

they had a great time.

**5. Clause,**

Note: these can switch places and can accept alternate descriptions! (hence, non-restrictive)  
Monica, visited her uncle.  
A pleasant girl, visited her uncle.  
An intelligent girl, visited her uncle.

**non-restrictive clause,**  
a pleasant girl,  
Monica,  
Monica,

**dependent clause.**

**6. Restrictive clause**

Note: these cannot switch places and cannot accept alternate descriptions! (hence, restrictive)  
The pleasant girl named Monica visited her uncle.

**dependent clause.**

**7. Adverbial dependent clause,**

Because of the weather,  
Since  
When  
While

**independent clause.**

Monica was able to visit her uncle.

**8. Independent clause**

Monica was able to visit her uncle

**adverbial (dependent) clause.**

because the weather was nice.

*The Writing Centre at the University of the Fraser Valley*

- promotes and researches writing as a foundational activity connected to critical thinking and learning in a post-secondary setting,
- provides a confidential service offering writing instruction to students who wish to become effective writers in their fields of study, and
- engages in dialogue with UFV's community of learners about the teaching of writing in discipline areas.

*The Writing Centre*