

A Note on Subordination

A fourth method of joining related thoughts is to use subordination. *Subordination* is a way of showing that one thought in a sentence is not as important as another thought. (Subordination is explained in full on pages 125–127.) Below are three earlier sentences, recast so that one idea is subordinated to (made less important than) the other idea. In each case, the subordinate (or less important) thought is underlined. Note that each subordinate clause begins with a dependent word.

Because the library had just closed, I couldn't get any of the reserved books.

When the canoe touched bottom, Dave pushed the craft toward deeper water.

I didn't make good time driving to work today because every traffic light along the way was red.

A Review: How to Check for Run-Ons

- To see if a sentence is a run-on, read it aloud and listen for a break marking two complete thoughts. Your voice will probably drop and pause at the break.
- To check an entire paper, read it aloud from the *last* sentence to the *first*. Doing so will help you hear and see each complete thought.
- Be on the lookout for words that can lead to run-on sentences:

I	he, she, it	they	this	then	now
you	we	there	that	next	
- Correct run-ons by using one of the following methods:
 Period and a capital letter
 Comma and a joining word (*and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*)
 Semicolon, alone or with a transitional word
 Subordination

REVIEW TEST 1

Correct each run-on by using (1) a period and a capital letter; (2) a comma and a joining word; or (3) a semicolon. Do not use one method exclusively.