1. A **simple sentence** contains one independent clause:

   Independent clause.

   Example: Rachel walked to the store.

2. A **compound sentence** contains two independent clauses connected in one of three ways:

   a) A comma followed by a *coordinating conjunction*

   Independent clause, and independent clause.

   Example: Rachel needed to buy apples, but there were none left.

   b) A semicolon followed by a *conjunctive adverb* and a comma

   Independent clause; therefore, independent clause.

   Example: Rachel needed to buy apples; therefore, she went to the produce aisle.

   c) A *semicolon* between two related independent clauses

   Independent clause; independent clause.

   Example: Rachel walked to the store; Dan walked also.

(over)
3. A complex sentence contains a dependent clause and an independent clause:

   a) If a sentence begins with a dependent marker followed by a dependent clause, include a comma before the independent clause.

   If dependent clause, independent clause.
   Because
   Since
   When
   While
   Although
   After
   (etc.)

   Example: Because the Seahawks excel in baseball, they are number one in the league.

   b) If a sentence begins with independent clause, do not use a comma before the dependent marker and dependent clause.

   Independent clause if dependent clause.
   because
   since
   when
   while
   although
   after
   (etc.)

   Example: The Seahawks won the last game because they practiced every day.

3. Place a nonessential clause, phrase or word between two commas:

   Clause, phrase, or word, Nonessential clause, phrase or word, Clause, phrase, or word.

   Example: Our baseball team, the Seahawks, celebrated their most current win.

EDITING ADVICE

1) Skim through your paper, stopping at each punctuation mark.

2) Check to see if you can explain why you used punctuation at this point.

3) Read your paper aloud. Are there any unpunctuated places where you pause to figure out the meaning of what you have written?