**JOINING IDEAS: COORDINATION AND SUBORDINATION**

### **COORDINATION: Coordination Relates "Equal" Ideas**

When a sentence contains more than one idea, the ideas may be equal or unequal in rank. Ideas that are equal in rank are coordinate (Co means "equal"; ordinate means "kind" or "rank"; hence coordinate means "of equal kind or rank.")



### **SUBORDINATION: Subordination Emphasizes "Main" Ideas**

Subordination enables you to show the relative importance of the parts of a sentence. To use subordination is to make one or more parts of a sentence depend on the part that is most important to you.

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**Make clear the relationship between the ideas in coordinate/ subordinate clauses by using connectives which express the relationship logically and exactly.**

**Avoiding Faulty and Excessive Subordination and Coordination**

**Faulty Subordination/ Coordination**

**Faulty Subordination:**

**Faulty subordination** occurs when the more important clause is placed in a subordinate position in the sentence or when the expected relation between clauses is reversed.

**Faulty Coordination**

**Faulty coordination** occurs the connecting word fails to create a reasonable relationship between the clauses.

**Excessive Subordination/ Coordination**

**Excessive subordination** occurs when too many details are added to main clause (excessive subordination), **stringing** together a long series of subordinate clauses referring to some element in a previous clause.

**Excessive coordination** occurs when sentences are combined using "all-purpose" conjunctions such as **and** or **so** leading to a **rambling/ stringy sentence** that is an exceedingly long sentence that contains too many independent clauses.

**Fixing Stringy/ Rambling Sentences**

* Split the overly long sentence into a few smaller ones.
* Reread the sentence and decide if there are unnecessary details that could be cut out.

**Avoiding Choppy Sentences**

Writing feels choppy when the sentences are very short, and do not connect to each other.

**Fixing Choppy Style:**

* Join sentences together with coordinating conjunctions.
* Subordinate some sentences together.
* Use modifying phrases.
* Integrate multiple sentences together by avoiding unnecessary repetitions.