



## PUNCTUATION PATTERN SHEET

1. *Independent clause* . *Independent clause* .

Example: **Martin Luther was Roman Catholic. Martin Luther began the Reformation.**

2. *Independent clause* , and *independent clause* .

but, for, or

nor, so, yet

Example: **Martin Luther was Roman Catholic, but he began the Reformation.**

Punctuate on structure not meaning: **Martin was Roman Catholic but began the Reformation.**

3. *Independent clause* ; *independent clause* .

Example: **Martin Luther was Roman Catholic; Martin Luther began Lutheranism.**

4. *Independent clause* ; or . therefore or Therefore , *independent clause* .

however, nevertheless, consequently,

furthermore, moreover, etc.

Example: **Martin Luther was Catholic; nevertheless, he began the Reformation.**

5. *Independent clause* if *dependent clause* .

because, while, since, although

(note: no comma) when, after, etc.

Example: **Martin Luther began the Reformation although he was Roman Catholic.**

6. If *dependent clause* , *independent clause* .

Because, While

Since, When (Note: comma needed to show sentence order, not

Although, etc. meaning, has changed.)

Example: **Although he was Roman Catholic, Martin Luther began the Reformation.**

7. *Independent clause* : *A, B, and C* . (Note: use of "serial comma" before and)  
or *Independent clause* : *keyword or phrase* .

Examples: **There were actually several reformations: the Continental Reformations, the English Reformations, and the Counter Reformations.**

**One small issue more than any other was the root cause of the Reformation: indulgences.**

8. *Clause, phrase* , *nonessential clause* , *clause, phrase* . (For variations, see  
*or word* , *phrase, or word* , *or word* #9 below.)

Examples: **The Reformation, begun by Martin Luther, would spread across Europe and beyond.**

**However, many current theologians in the Catholic Church recognize Martin Luther as theologically orthodox. (OR) Many current theologians in the Catholic Church, however, now recognize Martin Luther as theologically orthodox. (OR) Many current theologians in the Catholic Church recognize Martin Luther as theologically orthodox, however.**

9. " \_\_\_\_\_," *she said* .

*He said*, " \_\_\_\_\_."

" \_\_\_\_\_," *she said*, " \_\_\_\_\_."

**"Independent clause" (parenthetical citation).**

**"Independent clause."<sup>1</sup>**

---

<sup>1</sup>Wilson In These Times, 53.

<sup>2</sup> Pickett, classnotes.

Examples:

“Paul is more complex than most Christians realize,” Dr. Kittredge said.

Dr. Picket noted, “Paul is more complex than most Christians realize.”

“Paul is more complex than most Christians realize” (Kittredge, classnotes).

“Paul is more complex than most Christians realize.”<sup>2</sup>

10. *(Independent clause or more.)*

*Independent clause (clause, phrase, or word).*

Examples:

Martin Luther began the Reformation. (Luther began his adult life as an Augustinian monk in the Roman Catholic Church).

Martin Luther began the Reformation (or at least one of the reformations that swept Europe at that time).

**IN THE UNITED STATES: Commas and periods are tucked *INSIDE* quotes; semicolons and colons remain *OUTSIDE*. Question marks and exclamation marks *VARY* due to content.**

,”

.”                    **?”** if the person you are quoting is asking the question/ is excited

”;                    **” ?** if you are asking a question/or excited about what the person said

”:

**NOTE: Spacing has been mucked with here to emphasize punctuation. Please put no (0) spaces before commas, semicolons, or periods; two (2) spaces after colons or periods; one (1) space after a comma or semicolon. Dash is made by putting in two hyphens with no (0) spaces before or after. Dash = -- .**

---

<sup>2</sup> My apologies to the Lutherans (and my history professor Alan Gregory) and my colleagues Cynthia Kittredge and Ray Pickett for any inaccuracies in content above.