

Exercise walk-through

Control over the elements of composition ■ 6.13

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what coordination and subordination illustrate
- explain how sentence structure carries an argument
- state what punctuation conveys
- revise a sentence to reflect its meaning

Method — Two structures

Writers may use coordination to illustrate a balance or equality between ideas or subordination to illustrate an imbalance or inequality. The grammar states the relation.

Method — Structure and argument

Writers convey their ideas in a sentence through strategic selection and placement of phrases and clauses. A subordinated clause is marked as less important, so subordinating your main point argues against yourself.

Method — Punctuation

Punctuation conveys relationships between and among parts of a sentence. A semicolon claims a balance a comma does not.

Method — Revising

Ask which idea in a sentence is the main one, and check that it sits in the main clause. If the point is in a subordinate clause, the sentence is telling the reader to weight it less than you intend.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what coordination and subordination illustrate.

Solution 2.1

Method: Two structures

Worked steps

coordination illustrates a balance or equality between ideas **B1**; subordination illustrates an imbalance or inequality **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain how subordinating a main point argues against yourself.

Solution 2.2

Method: Structure and argument

Worked steps

a subordinated clause is marked as less important **B1**, so placing the main point there tells the reader to weight it less than intended **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Punctuation conveys relationships.

- (a) Give an example.
- (b) State the revision question.

Solution 2.3

Method: Punctuation

Worked steps

- (a) a semicolon claims a balance between two clauses that a comma does not **B2**.
- (b) which idea is the main one, and does it sit in the main clause **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Subordination illustrates

A an imbalance or inequality between ideas

B a balance

C a rhyme

D a quotation

Solution 3.1

A an imbalance or inequality between ideas



B a balance

C a rhyme

D a quotation

Worked steps

A. imbalance.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A clause placed in a subordinate position is marked as

- A** less important
- B** more important
- C** equal
- D** unrelated

Solution 3.2

A less important



B more important

C equal

D unrelated

Worked steps

A. less important.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A student's key claim sits in an “although” clause.

- (a) State the problem.
- (b) Explain the fix.

Solution 3.3

Method: Revising

Worked steps

(a) the grammar weights the claim as concessive rather than central **B1**. (b) move the claim into the main clause **B1** and subordinate the concession instead **B1**.