



Sentence Structure



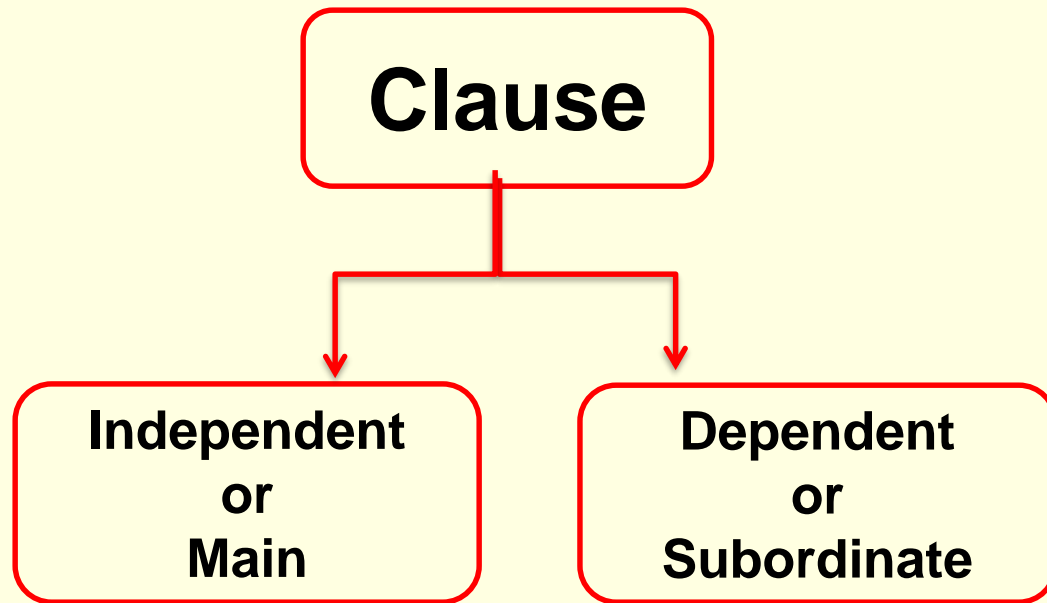
What is a sentence?

- Subject
- Predicate: verb & modifiers, object(s), etc.
- Starts with a capital letter, ends with a period
- Expresses a complete thought

What is a complete thought?

- It can stand alone
- It doesn't need another clause to explain it
- Certain words can make a complete thought less complete:
- Examples--*after, although, as, as if, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order to, since, though, unless, until, whatever, when, whenever, whether, and while*
- These words can transform an independent clause into a dependent clause

Types of Clauses



Make sure you know the difference

- Independent clause:

It has a subject and a predicate and it can stand alone with a complete meaning.

- Dependent clause:

It has a subject and a predicate and it cannot stand alone with a complete meaning.

Types of Sentences

1. Simple sentence:

It consists of **one** independent clause.

- **The boys** were running down the hill.

The boys = S.

were running down the hill = Predicate

- **The student in the library** read many interesting books.

The student in the library = S.

read many interesting books = Predicate

Types of Sentences

2. Compound sentence:

It consists of **two** independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

- The moon was bright, so we could see our way.
- The student in the library read many interesting books, but none provided the information needed for the research paper.

Types of Sentences

3. Complex sentence:

It consists of **one independent clause** and at least **one dependent clause**, joined by a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun. For example,

- I saw the boy **who** brought the papers.
- Jack could not come to school yesterday **because** he was sick.

Types of Sentences

- Although the student in the library read many interesting books, none provided the information needed for the research paper.

Types of Sentences

4. Compound-Complex sentence:

It consists of **two independent clauses** and at least **one dependent clause**. For example,

- **The agent knew that the roof leaked, but he did not tell us.**
- **Since the day was unpleasant, we stayed indoors; Tom studied English and I watched T.V..**

Types of Sentences

- Although the student in the library read many interesting books, none provided the information needed for the research paper, and she began to despair.

Why does any of this matter?

- Editors must spot and fix two kinds of errors
- Sentences that are “too short” (sentence fragments)
- Sentences that are “too long” (comma splices or run-ons)
- Comma splices: Two or more sentences joined by comma.
- Run-ons: Two or more sentences or independent clauses joined without the correct grammar.

Why does any of this matter?

- **WARNING:** A long sentence is not necessarily a run-on sentence

Sentence fragments

- May be missing something
- Walking down the path that ran along the river.
- May be a dependent clause
- Which is the reason why I was always confused
- Although I always come to class

Run-on sentence

- “Too long”
- Contains more than one independent clause
- But lacks proper punctuation
- John read the book he liked it a lot.
- John read the book. He liked it a lot.
- It’s snowing outside *let’s go play.*
- It’s snowing outside. *Let’s go play.*



Thank you