

SENTENCES & FRAGMENTS



THE WRITING
— CENTER —

Clauses

A clause is a group of words which contains a **subject** and a **verb**.

There are two types of clauses: independent and dependent

Independent Clauses

Can stand on their own as a whole idea.

Create a complete **simple sentence**.

- The **sun shone** brightly.
- The **air was** cool.

Can be combined together using a comma and a **conjugation** to create a **compound sentence**.

- The sun shone brightly, and the air was cool.

Conjugations

FOR	OR
AND	YET
NOR	SO
BUT	

Dependent Clauses

Cannot stand on their own.

Depend on something else to complete the thought.

Begin with a **subordinator** or dependent word.

- Before the **sun set**
- After the **campfire went out**

Dependent clauses need to be combined with an independent clause to form a **complex sentence**.

- Before the sun set, we found a campsite.
- We ate dinner after the campfire went out.

Rule: if the dependent clause comes **before** the independent clause, then a comma is used to separate them.

Subordinators

BEFORE
AFTER
SINCE
WHILE
ALTHOUGH
IF
AS SOON AS
THAT
WHICH

Sentence Fragments

Missing a Subject or Verb

A sentence may look like a sentence, but it may be missing a subject or verb. Do not let a capital letter and punctuation fool you.

Correct this fragment by adding the missing subject or verb.

Fragment: Just walked into the store.

Correction: **He** just walked into the store.

Phrase Fragment

Phrases are word groups without subjects or verbs.

Whenever a phrase is punctuated as a sentence, it is a fragment.

They usually can be corrected by combining the phrase with the full sentence before or after it.

Fragment: Hoping to get a good grade. I study English a lot with my friends.

Correction: Hoping to get a good grade, I study English a lot with my friends.

Dependent Clauses

Any clause that begins with a subordinator cannot be a complete sentence.

Even though we speak in fragments, we need to ensure we are writing in whole sentences.

Join the Dependent clause with an independent clause to correct these fragments.

Fragment: Because I wanted to.

Correction: **I went to the beach** because I wanted to.



Run-on/Comma Splice

Run-on:

Sentences that lack punctuation.

Add the correct punctuation to fix these

Run-on: It looks cold today the picnic might be cancelled.

Correction: It looks cold today. The picnic might be canceled

Comma Splice:

Joining two independent clauses with only a comma

Add a conjunction to create a compound sentence, or create two independent sentences as in the example above.

Splice: It looks cold today, the picnic might be cancelled.

Correction: It looks cold today, **so** the picnic might be cancelled

How to spot them:

Use the Question Test!

Turn the sentences into questions. You cannot have two questions in one.

Does it look cold today? Will the picnic be cancelled?

Since you can create two questions you know these are two separate independent clauses.

