



Reviewing Clauses & Sentence Structure



600 Written Communication
Fall 2023



What is a
sentence?



What is a sentence?

English sentences are formed from a *subject* and a *predicate*.

The subject is a *noun phrase* and the predicate must include a *verb phrase*.

What is a
phrase?



What is a phrase?

In English grammar, a *phrase* is one or more words that work together as a grammatical unit.

The part of the phrase that determines its grammatical function is the *head* of the phrase.

Examples of Phrases

Noun Phrase

- Mars
- An individual activity
- A detailed outline
- unprecedented technology

Verb Phrase

- going down
- see[ing] a movie
- stand up

Adjective Phrase

- amazing
- very cool
- unprecedented

Adverb Phrase

- If I am late, ...
- When it rains...
- really, very

Prepositional Phrase

- on it
- at the beach

What is a
clause?



What is a clause?

A *clause* is a special type of phrase that has a subject and a predicate.

Independent & Dependent Clauses

Independent Clause

- I go to school.

Dependent Clause

- When I go to school,

Compound Sentences

A combination of two (or more) *independent* clauses is a *compound sentence*.

The most common way to form a compound sentence is using a comma and a *coordinating conjunction*.

Coordinating Conjunctions (CC)

- FANBOYS:
 - For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

Compound sentences cannot be combined using just a comma!

In formal writing, do not begin a sentence with a coordinating conjunction.

Compound Sentences

Coordinating Conjunctions (CC)

- FANBOYS:
 - For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

Joining independent clauses

- ✓ IC. IC.
- ✓ IC, CC IC.
- ✓ IC; IC
- ? IC CC IC.
- CC IC.
- IC, IC.

Examples:

- I read a book. I took a nap.
- I read a book; I took a nap.
- I read a book, I took a nap.
- I read a book. And I took a nap.
- I read a book and I took a nap.
- I read a book, and I took a nap.
- She was lying on the couch taking a well-deserved nap and the book she had been reading had fallen onto her face.

Complex Sentences

A complex sentence contains an *independent clause* and a *dependent clause*.

A dependent clause begins with a *subordinating conjunction*.

If the *dependent clause* comes first, it is followed by a *comma* to separate it from the *independent clause*.

The comma is not used when the *independent clause* comes first.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating Conjunctions

✓ DC, IC.

✓ IC DC.

✗ DC.

✗ DC IC.

✗ IC, DC.

Examples:

- After I read a book, I took a nap.
- I took a nap after I read a book.
- After I read a book.
- After I read a book I took a nap.
- I took a nap, after I read a book.

Adverbial Coordinators

Transition Words

- Come before an **independent** clause
 - Followed by a comma
 - Can connect two independent clauses using a semicolon
 - Can begin a sentence
-

Adverbial Coordinators: The AND Relationship

A different idea:

- In addition
- Also
- Moreover
- Furthermore

A similar idea:

- Similarly
- Likewise
- In the same way

Surprising or unexpected information:

- In fact
- Actually

Explanation:

- In other words
- That is to say
- That is
- I.e.
- to be precise

Conditional:

- In that case
- In this case
- Otherwise
- If not

Masters, P. (1996). *Systems in English Grammar*, pp. 320-331.

Adverbial Coordinators: The BUT Relationship

Specified Contrast:

- In contrast
- By comparison
- Conversely
- On the other hand

Generalized Contrast:

- However
- Nevertheless
- In spite of that
- Still

Rebuttal:

- In fact
- As a matter of fact
- Actually
- In reality

Masters, P. (1996). *Systems in English Grammar*,
pp. 320-331.

Adverbial Coordinators: The SO Relationship

Cause:

- The reason is

Effect:

- Therefore
- As a result
- Thus
- For this reason
- Consequently

Purpose:

- For this reason

Masters, P. (1996). *Systems in English Grammar*,
pp. 320-331.

Combining Sentences

1. The clouds gathered, but they did not bring rain.
2. The clouds gathered; however, they did not bring rain.
3. The clouds gathered. However, they did not bring rain.
4. The clouds that gathered did not bring rain.
5. Although the clouds gathered, they did not bring rain.

Masters, P. (1996). *Systems in English Grammar*, pp. 320-331.

Connectors for Comparison Essays

Review the connectors listed on p. 79 of the textbook.

- Are there any coordinating conjunctions?
 - No!
- Which ones are subordinating conjunctions?
 - Although
 - Even though
- Which ones are adverbial connectors (transition words)?
 - Similarly, However, Likewise, In contrast
- How can you tell? Are there any that don't fit these categories?
 - Compared to (noun phrase), subject + verb
- Can anyone find the *error* on p. 79? (see above)

More Information

Sentence Structure: p. 180-181 in the Writer's Handbook (back of textbook)

Connectors and Transitions: p. 182-183 in the Writer's Handbook (textbook)

Rules, guidelines, and conventions for punctuating compound sentences:

<https://www.louiseharnbyproofreader.com/blog/should-i-use-a-comma-before-coordinating-conjunctions-and-independent-clauses-in-fiction>