

Elements of a Complete Sentence – Unit 1

<p>An independent clause is a clause containing a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence.</p>	
<p>INDEPENDENT CLAUSE by itself = SENTENCE: <i>Steve excels in the classroom.</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Subject</p> <p>The subject of a sentence is the person, place, thing, or idea that is doing or being something.</p> <p>S</p> <p>Joe purchased a new car.</p> <p>A subject is not always one word. Sometimes an entire phrase (in these cases gerund phrases) acts as the subject.</p> <p>S</p> <p>Being on time for work is important.</p> <p>S</p> <p>Doing things for others generates happiness.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Verb</p> <p>a word used to show an action or to indicate a state of being</p> <p>V</p> <p>Joe purchased a new car.</p> <p>V</p> <p>The car is red.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Linking Verbs</p> <p>verbs that indicate a state of being</p> <p>am is are was were be been</p> <p>seem look appear taste</p> <p>V</p> <p>Joe seems tired.</p> <p>V</p> <p>The window is open.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Helping Verbs</p> <p>a verb that works with a main verb to create a verb phrase</p> <p>am be have do can may will is been has does could must shall are being had did should might was would were</p> <p>HV HV MV</p> <p>Gary should have gone to the party.</p>
<p>If a group of words lacks a subject, a verb, or a complete thought, it is not a complete sentence. Instead, it is called a sentence fragment.</p> <p>A sentence fragment is a group of words that is not a complete sentence. Sometimes, writers will intentionally use fragments in a piece of literature. However, in most formal compositions, we want to avoid unintended sentence fragments.</p> <p>FRAGMENT: The quarterback near the ten-yard line. (What is the quarterback doing? No verb.)</p> <p>FRAGMENT: Shifted into lower gear. (Who shifted? No subject.)</p> <p>FRAGMENT: Because I really enjoy football. (No complete thought)</p>	

Label the subjects and verbs / verb phrases in the following examples. Then, determine whether or not each word group is a sentence (S) or a fragment (F). Remember, an independent clause / sentence must contain a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

1. Joe plays the piano. _____
2. The waitress had cleaned off the table. _____
3. Two stuffed animals on the bed. _____
4. Seeking the truth is the job of a good reporter. _____
5. While the waitress had cleaned off the table. _____

Elements of a Complete Sentence 1.1

Activating Background Knowledge

- * The _____ of a sentence is the person, place, thing, or idea that is doing or being something.
- * A _____ is a word used to show an action or to indicate a state of being. In some cases, a linking verb (am, is, are, was, were) simply connects the subject with a modifier.
- * An _____ clause contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.
- * A _____ is a group of words that is not a complete sentence.

Physical Action Verbs	Mental Action Verbs	Common Linking Verbs	Helping Verbs
run wrestle purchase throw attend climb	understand think analyze wonder ponder consider	verbs that indicate a state of being am is are was were be been	a verb that works with a main verb to create a verb phrase am be have do can may will is been has does could must shall are being had did should might was would were

Identifying Subjects and Verbs / Verb Phrases in Simple Sentences

DIRECTIONS: Underline and label the subjects and verbs / verb phrases in the following examples. Then, determine whether or not each word group is a sentence (S) or a fragment (F). Remember, an independent clause / sentence must contain a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

SAMPLE: The storm may sink your parents' boat. _____

- The bus lost its wheel. _____
- After I have spoken to the principal. _____
- Riding roller coasters excites me. _____

* Make sure that you can explain WHY one of the above examples is a fragment.

Two-word sentence

A sentence doesn't have to be long. It just needs to have a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

Subject

+

verb

.

Model Sentence: Anger flared.

4. Your Sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify which of the following examples BEST expresses the idea using appropriate conventions of the English language. Be prepared to explain why the other four examples won't work.

- Even though none of us appreciated the whether being so dreary, all of us tried to enjoy ourselves.
 - In spite of the dreary weather. All of us tried to enjoy ourselves.
 - All of us tried to enjoy ourselves in spite of the dreary whether.
 - All of us tried to enjoy ourselves. In spite of the dreary weather.
 - In spite of the dreary weather, all of us tried to enjoy ourselves.

Elements of a Complete Sentence 1.2

Activating Background Knowledge

- * The _____ of a sentence is the person, place, thing, or idea that is doing or being something
- * A _____ is a word used to show an action or to indicate a state of being. In some cases, a linking verb (am, is, are, was, were) simply connects the subject with a modifier.
- * An _____ clause contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.
- * A _____ is a group of words that is not a complete sentence.

Physical Action Verbs	Mental Action Verbs	Common Linking Verbs	Helping Verbs
run wrestle purchase throw attend climb	understand think analyze wonder ponder consider	verbs that indicate a state of being am is are was were be been	a verb that works with a main verb to create a verb phrase am be have do can may will is been has does could must shall are being had did should might was were would

Identifying Subjects and Verbs / Verb Phrases in Simple Sentences

DIRECTIONS: Underline and label the subjects and verbs / verb phrases in the following examples. Then, determine whether or not each word group is a sentence (S) or a fragment (F). Remember, an independent clause / sentence must contain a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

SAMPLE: Drinking untreated water will destroy your digestive system. _____

1. Joe and Ronda argued for hours. _____
2. Although I understand your point of view. _____
3. My suitcase is missing. _____

Gerund phrase as subject

A subject is not always one word. Sometimes an entire phrase (gerund phrase) acts as the subject.

Gerund phrase

+

verb

.

Model Sentence: Listening to music relaxes me.

4. Your Sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify which of the following examples BEST expresses the idea using appropriate conventions of the English language. Be prepared to explain why the other four examples won't work.

5.
 - A. Unless your willing to sacrifice, you will have a difficult time achieving your goals.
 - B. Unless you're willing to sacrifice. You will have a difficult time achieving your goals.
 - C. You will have a difficult time achieving your goals unless you're willing to sacrifice.
 - D. Have a difficult time achieving your goals without sacrificing.
 - E. You will have a difficult time achieving your goals. Unless you are willing to sacrifice.

Elements of a Complete Sentence 1.3

Activating Background Knowledge

Be able to define each of the following terms:

Subject =

Verb =

Independent clause =

Sentence fragment =

Physical Action Verbs	Mental Action Verbs	Common Linking Verbs	Helping Verbs
run wrestle purchase throw attend climb	understand think analyze wonder ponder consider	verbs that indicate a state of being am is are was were be been	a verb that works with a main verb to create a verb phrase am be have do can may will is been has does could must shall are being had did should might was were would

Identifying Subjects and Verbs / Verb Phrases in Simple Sentences

DIRECTIONS: Underline and label the subjects and verbs / verb phrases in the following examples. Then, determine whether or not each word group is a sentence (S) or a fragment (F). Remember, an independent clause / sentence must contain a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

SAMPLE: Left the office in a state of disarray. _____

1. Winston discovered my secret stash of chocolate bars. _____
2. Opened his mouth at the wrong time. _____
3. The sound of his voice is annoying. _____

Simple Sentence with Compound Verbs

A subject can perform more than one action in a sentence.

Subject

+

verb

,

verb

,

and

verb

.

Model Sentence: Alyssa cried out, fell to her knees, and began to pray.

4. Your Sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify which of the following examples BEST expresses the idea using appropriate conventions of the English language. Be prepared to explain why the other four examples won't work.

5.
 - A. When there mother and father arrive, Steve and Luisa will have to leave.
 - B. Steve and Luisa will have to leave when their mother and father arrive.
 - C. When their mother and father arrive. Steve and Luisa will have to leave.
 - D. Will have to leave when their mother and father arrive.
 - E. Steve and Luisa will have to leave. When there mother and father arrive.

Elements of a Complete Sentence 1.4

Activating Background Knowledge

Subject =

Verb =

Independent clause =

Sentence fragment =

Physical Action Verbs	Mental Action Verbs	Common Linking Verbs	Helping Verbs
run wrestle purchase throw attend climb	understand think analyze wonder ponder consider	verbs that indicate a state of being am is are was were be been	a verb that works with a main verb to create a verb phrase am be have do can may will is been has does could must shall are being had did should might was would were

Identifying Subjects and Verbs / Verb Phrases in Simple Sentences

DIRECTIONS: Underline and label the subjects and verbs / verb phrases in the following examples. Then, determine whether or not each word group is a sentence (S) or a fragment (F). Remember, an independent clause / sentence must contain a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

SAMPLE: Ryan was screaming at the top of his lungs. _____

1. Discussing the problem in a calm manner failed. _____
2. The glare of his headlights flickered outside our windows. _____
3. The policeman on the corner of our street. _____

Simple Sentence with Compound Subject and Compound Verbs

A simple sentence can contain multiple subjects and verbs.

Subject

and

subject

• verb

and

verb

Model Sentence: The board president and the superintendent sat in the corner and discussed the merits of the student's complaints.

4. Your Sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify which of the following examples BEST expresses the idea using appropriate conventions of the English language. Be prepared to explain why the other four examples won't work.

5.
 - A. If I am aloud to leave work early, I will meet you at Johnson's for lunch.
 - B. I will meet you at Johnson's for lunch if I am allowed to leave work early.
 - C. I will meet you at Johnson's for lunch. If I am allowed to leave work early.
 - D. Will meet you at Johnson's for lunch.
 - E. If I am allowed to leave work early. I will meet you at Johnson's for lunch.

Clauses and Phrases – Unit 2

An **independent clause** is a clause containing a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE by itself: *Steve excels in the classroom.*

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE as part of a sentence:

Because he studies regularly, *Steve excels in the classroom.*

TWO INDEPENDENT CLAUSES joined in a compound sentence:

Steve is not a great athlete, but he excels in the classroom.

A **dependent clause** contains a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE as part of a sentence:

Because he studies regularly, Steve excels in the classroom.

Steve excels in the classroom *because he studies regularly.*

AAAWWUBBIS is an acronym to help you remember the basic subordinating conjunctions. An AAWWUBBIS turns a sentence/independent clause into a dependent clause.

After Although As When/Whenever While Until/Unless Because Before If Since

SENTENCE: I studied for the test.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE / FRAGMENT: Although I studied for the test.

CORRECT: Although I studied for the test, I still did poorly.

A **phrase** is a group of words that does not contain its own subject or verb. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.

PHRASE ALONE / FRAGMENT: *Hoping that his mother would soon arrive.*

CORRECT: *Hoping that his mother would soon arrive,* Steve paced impatiently.

PHRASE ALONE / FRAGMENT: Joe dribbled up court. *His sparkling new Nikes squeaking with each cut.*

CORRECT: Joe dribbled up court, *his sparkling new Nikes squeaking with each cut.*

CORRECT: Joe, his sparkling new Nikes squeaking with each cut, dribbled up court.

DIRECTIONS: Identify the boldfaced portion as either an independent clause (IC), a dependent clause (DC), or a phrase (P).

1. **Until you learn how to play defense**, you will have to sit the bench. ____
2. **Embarrassed and emotionally-drained**, Ron locked himself in his room. ____
3. **The students worked on their tests** while the teacher graded papers. ____
4. Most of the students, **even the ones with failing grades**, respected the teacher. ____
5. Until you learn how to play defense, **you will have to sit the bench**. ____
6. Embarrassed and emotionally-drained, **Ron locked himself in his room**. ____
7. The students worked on their tests **while the teacher graded papers**. ____
8. **Most of the students**, even the ones struggling to pass the class, **respected the teacher**. ____

Clauses and Phrases 2.1

Activating Background Knowledge: Fill in the blanks.

An _____ clause contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.	A _____ clause contains a subject and a verb, but it does not contain a complete thought. This is why a dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.	A _____ is a word group that does not contain its own subject and verb. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.
<p>The acronym AAAWWUBBIS helps you to remember the subordinating conjunctions. If you put an AAAWWUBBIS in front of a sentence, the sentence becomes a _____ clause.</p> <p>After Although As When / Whenever While Until Because Before If Since</p>		If you leave a dependent clause or a phrase by itself, what sentence error do you create?

Identifying Clauses and Phrases

DIRECTIONS: Circle phrases, underline dependent clauses, and put brackets around independent clauses. Complete the sample sentence with your teacher.

SAMPLE: We won't be able to meet unless I can move my 3:30 appointment.

1. After I finish speaking with you, I will talk with your mother.
2. The band played while the crowd stood at attention.
3. Listless and emotionally-spent, Jan collapsed on the couch.

Dependent clause opener

If a sentence starts with an **AAAWWUBBIS**, it will create a **dependent clause** or a phrase. A phrase or dependent clause cannot stand alone, but can be used as an "**opener**."

Dependent clause
opener

,

independent
clause

.

Model Sentence: Until Doug apologizes to the athletic director, he will not see the court.

4. Your Sentence: _____

Clauses and Phrases 2.2

Activating Background Knowledge: Fill in the blanks.

The acronym AAAWWUBBIS helps you to remember the subordinating conjunctions. If you put an AAAWWUBBIS in front of a sentence, the sentence becomes a _____ clause. Use the acronym below to help you list some of the subordinating conjunctions.

A
A
A
W
W
U
B
B
I
S

If you leave a dependent clause or a phrase by itself, what sentence error do you create?

Dependent clause opener

If a sentence starts with an **AAAWWUBBIS**, it will create a **dependent clause** or a phrase. A phrase or dependent clause cannot stand alone, but can be used as an "**opener**."

Dependent clause

opener

,

independent
clause

.

Model Sentence: Before our orders had even arrived, Gary had filled up on bread.

1. **Your Sentence:** _____

If the **dependent clause comes second** in the sentence, a comma is generally not needed. In other words, if you were to take the model sentence above and flip the order, you wouldn't need to use a comma between the two clauses.

Model Sentence: Gary gorged himself on bread and butter before our orders even arrived.

2. **Your Sentence:** _____

DIRECTIONS: Which version is properly punctuated? Be prepared to explain why.

3. A. Some students will not give full effort. Unless they are faced with the possibility of failure.
- B. Unless they are faced with the possibility of failure, some students will not give full effort.
- C. Unless they are faced with the possibility of failure. Some students will not give full effort.
- D. Some students will not give full effort, unless they are faced with the possibility of failure.

Clauses and Phrases 2.3

Activating Background Knowledge: Fill in the blanks.		
An _____ clause contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.	A _____ clause contains a subject and a verb, but it does not contain a complete thought. This is why a dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.	A _____ is a word group that does not contain its own subject and verb. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.
<p>The acronym AAWWUBBIS helps you to remember the subordinating conjunctions. If you put an AAWWUBBIS in front of a sentence, the sentence becomes a _____ clause.</p> <p>After Although As When / Whenever While Until Because Before If Since</p>		If you leave a dependent clause or phrase by itself, what sentence error do you create?

Identifying Clauses and Phrases

DIRECTIONS: Circle phrases, underline dependent clauses, and put brackets around independent clauses. Complete the sample sentence with your teacher.

SAMPLE: My brother, a kind and gentle soul, said nothing.

1. As I entered, the door squeaked, awaking my parents.
2. Joe's dog, a tiny but vicious creature, barked furiously.
3. I sat in the hall while my classmates worked on their projects.

Use commas to set off an interrupting word or phrase

Sent
,
interrupter
,
ence
.

Model Sentence: Joe thought of his grandmother's farm, a warm and welcoming place, and immediately wished that he could escape the prison-like atmosphere of Aunt Marcia's sterile home.

4. Your Sentence: _____

Clauses and Phrases 2.4

Activating Background Knowledge: Fill in the blanks.		
An _____ clause contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.	A _____ clause contains a subject and a verb, but it does not contain a complete thought. This is why a dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.	A _____ is a word group that does not contain its own subject and verb. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.
<p>The acronym AAWWUBBIS helps you to remember the subordinating conjunctions. If you put an AAWWUBBIS in front of a sentence, the sentence becomes a _____ clause.</p> <p> After Although As When / Whenever While Until Because Before If Since </p>		If you leave a dependent clause or a phrase by itself, what sentence error do you create?

Identifying Clauses and Phrases

DIRECTIONS: Circle phrases, underline dependent clauses, and put brackets around independent clauses. Complete the sample sentence with your teacher.

SAMPLE: Wishing that John would return, Alesia nervously fiddled with her hair.

1. After the World Series ended, the football season began in earnest.
2. I will not be your friend until you tell the truth.
3. Having spoken to Steve's parents, I now want to talk with him.

Phrase opener

A phrase cannot stand alone as a sentence. However, you can use a phrase as an **opener**.

Phrase

opener

,

independent
clause

.

Model Sentence: Angry and alone, Gary desperately scanned the crowd for a friendly face.

4. Your Sentence: _____

Clauses and Phrases 2.5

Activating Background Knowledge: Fill in the blanks.

An _____ clause contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.

A _____ clause contains a subject and a verb, but it does not contain a complete thought. This is why a dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.

A _____ is a word group that does not contain its own subject and verb. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Phrase opener

A **phrase** cannot stand alone as a sentence. However, you can use a phrase as an **opener**.

Phrase
opener

independent
clause

, .

Model Sentence: Wandering aimlessly in search of water, Alyssa began to hallucinate.

1. **Your Sentence:** _____

Phrase closer

A **phrase** cannot stand alone as a sentence. However, you can use a phrase as a **closer**.

Independent
clause

phrase
closer

, .

Model Sentence: Bobby walked down the avenue in a state of ecstasy, his eyes rapidly surveying each of the skyscrapers towering above him.

2. **Your Sentence:** _____

Best Version

DIRECTIONS: Which version is properly punctuated? Be prepared to explain why.

3. A. Holding his knees and rocking back and forth. Joe cried softly.
B. Holding his knees and rocking back and forth, Joe cried softly.
C. Joe cried softly. Holding his knees and rocking back and forth.
D. Joe cried softly holding his knees and rocking back and forth.
E. Holding his knees and rocking back and forth Joe cried softly.

Clauses and Phrases 2.6

Activating Background Knowledge: Fill in the blanks.		
An _____ clause contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.	A _____ clause contains a subject and a verb, but it does not contain a complete thought. This is why a dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.	A _____ is a word group that does not contain its own subject and verb. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.
<p>The acronym AAWWUBBIS helps you to remember the subordinating conjunctions. If you put an AAWWUBBIS in front of a sentence, the sentence becomes a _____ clause.</p> <p>After Although As When / Whenever While Until Because Before If Since</p>		If you leave a dependent clause or a phrase by itself, what sentence error do you create?

Identifying Clauses and Phrases

DIRECTIONS: Circle phrases, underline dependent clauses, and put brackets around independent clauses. Complete the sample sentence with your teacher.

SAMPLE: The nurse nodded while I winced in pain.

1. Joe walked away, his bag dragging on the pavement.
2. Dreaming of a better life, Juan traveled north to America.
3. His mother will be attending the game although his father won't be there.

Phrase closer

A **phrase** cannot stand alone as a sentence. However, you can use a phrase as a **closer**.

**Independent
clause**

,

phrase
closer

.

Model Sentence: Garret turned his head to the side and looked downward, offering no answer to Dan and Lisa's question.

4. Your Sentence: _____

2. Steve walked into the store and bought some milk.
3. Unless I get a raise I'm going to struggle to pay the rent.
4. I'm going to struggle to pay the rent unless I get a raise.
5. "Wait" said Bob "I'm going to need your help."
6. The leader forgot three things: his flashlight his clothes and his canteen.
7. I lived on 35 Oak Street Rockford Michigan for much of my life.
8. My brother who worked on a farm during high school is quite strong.
9. People who work on a farm are quite strong.
10. In fact I graduated on June 3rd 1992 from Sparta High School.
11. My sister by the way is an outstanding singer.

Dependent clause opener

If a sentence starts with an AAAWWUBBIS, it will create a **dependent clause** or a phrase. A phrase or dependent clause cannot stand alone, but can be used as an "**opener**."

Dependent clause
opener

,

independent
clause

.

Model Sentence: Although Joe was an intelligent person, he was out of his league.

12. Your sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Revise the following sentences, correcting any errors in parallelism. Correct any other errors you find.

1. The grumpy stewardess was impolite, unfriendly, and she neglected her job.

2. The men waited patiently, hoping that they would either be assessed a minor fine or the judge would send them home.

3. Gene has the opportunity to act humbly and like a kind person.

Simple Sentence with Compound Verbs

A subject can perform more than one action in a sentence.

Subject

+

verb

,

verb

, and

verb

.

Model Sentence: The bird circled the sky, dove into the water, and emerged with a small fish.

4. Your Sentence: _____
