

Phrases and Clauses

Good Sentences

Definitions

- **Phrases** lack a subject or a verb
 - Onward through the fog
 - Death from above
- **Clauses** have a subject and a verb
 - I want it all.
 - Because I said so.
- **Sentences** have a subject and a verb and make a complete statement
 - I want to rock 'n' roll all night and party every day.
 - I went to the store, and I went to the zoo.

More Definitions

- **Subjects** – people or things doing or being
- **Objects** – people or things on the receiving end of actions
- **Verbs** – actions or states of being
- **Modifiers** – descriptions
- **Conjunctions** – connecting words

- Phrases can act as any of the above

Dependent and Independent Clauses

- An **independent clause** can stand alone as a complete sentence.
- A **dependent clause** cannot stand alone and must be joined to an independent clause.
 - A **subordinate clause** begins with a subordinate conjunction:
 - After, although, as, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order that, once, provided that, rather than, since, so that, than, that, though, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever, whether, while, why
 - A **relative clause** begins with a relative pronoun:
 - That, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whose, whomever, whomever

Restrictive v. Nonrestrictive

- Also known as essential and nonessential phrases and clauses.
- Restrictive is not set off with commas, dashes or parentheses.
- Nonrestrictive should be set off by commas, dashes or parentheses.
 - Their daughter Mary arrived with her husband, Bob.
 - The boy who ate the pie was sick.

Sentence Errors

- **Fragments** – lacks a subject or verb
- **Fused** – lacks a conjunction or proper punctuation
- **Comma-Splices** – connects two independent clauses with only a comma
- **Run-On** – Long sentences with unrelated items or unimportant details