

## ***BASIC INFORMATION***

**PHRASE**--a group of words acting as a part of speech.

- Ex. Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. "On the moon" is a prepositional phrase which modifies the verb "walked"; therefore, the entire prepositional phrase acts as an adverb in this sentence.
- Ex. The man in the red coat gave me a puppy. "In the red coat" is a prepositional phrase which modifies the subject "man"; therefore, the entire prepositional phrase acts as an adverb in this sentence.

**CLAUSE**--a group of words having a subject and a verb. A clause may be either independent or dependent. An independent clause could stand alone as a sentence because it expresses a complete thought. A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence because it relies on an independent clause to explain its meaning. Independent clauses are sometimes referred to as main clauses. Dependent clauses are sometimes also called subordinate clauses.

- Ex. When I left the steak on the counter, my dog helped himself to a free lunch. The independent clause "my dog helped himself to a free lunch" is a complete sentence; it could stand alone and still make sense. The dependent clause "when I left the steak on the counter" is NOT a complete sentence; it relies on the independent clause to explain what happened.

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## **TYPES OF SENTENCES**

**SIMPLE**--consists of one thought, although there may be a compound subject and/or verb.

Ex. Rollerblading requires a good sense of balance.

Ex. Rollerblading and ice skating require a good sense of balance and coordination.

**COMPOUND**--consists of two ideas that are related. Each idea is an independent clause which could be a separate sentence; however, we are combining them because they are related.

Ex. Rollerblading requires a good sense of balance, but channel-surfing does not.

Ex. My Australian Cattle Dog Badger can stand on his head and fly, and my Australian Shepherd Sheila is a canine ballerina.

**COMPLEX**--consists of a dependent clause and an independent clause.

Ex. When I win the lottery, I will take a long vacation and travel around the world.

Ex. I will take a long vacation and travel around the world when I win the lottery.

Notice that a comma is required when the dependent clause comes before the independent clause, but a comma is NOT used when the independent clause comes before the dependent clause.

**COMPOUND-COMPLEX**--consists of two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Ex. When I win the lottery, I will take a long vacation and travel around the world, and I will visit all the places that I have ever read about.