

## Clauses

**An independent (or main) clause** expresses a complete thought and can stand by itself as a sentence.

When an independent clause stands alone, it is called a sentence. Usually the term *independent clause* is only used when such a clause is joined with another clause.

Example: Sentence **My mother drove me to school.**  
Independent clause in black: **Since I missed the bus, my mother drove me to school.**

**A subordinate (or dependent) clause** does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone.

In the example above, **Since I missed the bus**, is a subordinate clause—its meaning **depends** on the independent clause.

Such words as *since, that, if, although* will signal the beginning of a subordinate clause.

## Sentences

**A simple sentence** has one independent clause and no subordinate clauses—may contain a compound subject, compound predicate, or both.

Examples: A good rain helps the farmers. The huge dog and the tiny kitten lay down in the sunshine and napped.

**A compound sentence** has two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

Example: Melvin wrote about his mother's aunt, and Leroy wrote about his cousin from Jamaica.

**A complex sentence** has one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause.

Example: Helen Keller, **who overcame severe handicaps**, showed courage and determination.

**Because she had such a skillful and loving teacher**, Helen Keller was very fortunate.

# None of the following are ever part of a prepositional phrase!

**Complement-** a word or a group of words that completes the meaning of a verb.

Information: Direct and Indirect objects will have transitive verbs—action verbs that transfer action. They can **never** follow a linking verb.

**A direct object** is a noun or pronoun that receives the action of the verb or shows the result of that action. A direct object answers the question whom or what?

Examples: The shop makes small **parts** for engines. (She worked with clay. There is NO direct object even though worked is an action verb because there is no noun or pronoun to receive the action. Worked is said to be an intransitive verb.)

**An indirect object** is a noun or pronoun that comes between the verb and the direct object. It tells to whom or to what, or for whom or for what, the action of the verb is done. Must have a direct object to have an indirect object. Example: Pam left the **waiter** a tip. Tip is the direct object.

**Subject complement**—completes the meaning of a linking verb and identifies or describes the subject.

**A predicate nominative (also called predicate noun)** is a noun or pronoun that follows a linking verb and explains or identifies the **subject** of the sentence. *I like to think of linking verbs as meaning equal and the predicate nominative as renaming the subject.*

Example. We are the **delegates** from our school. Bill Russell became a famous basketball **player**.

**A predicate adjective** is an adjective that follows a linking verb and describes/modifies the **subject** of the sentence.

Example: Cold milk tastes **good** on a hot day. The bread was **light** and **delicious**.