

SENTENCE PATTERNS

Definitions

A **clause** is a group of words with a subject and a verb. It can be used as a sentence or as part of a sentence.

An **independent clause** can stand alone, making complete sense by itself.

Example: Aubie was late.

A **dependent clause** cannot stand alone. It needs to be attached to an independent clause to form a complete sentence.

Example: Because he couldn't find his tail.

An **essential clause or phrase** adds information that is essential to the modified term's meaning. It answers the question "what?" about the term it modifies.

Example: The students who work as consultants in the English Center have excellent academic records.

A **non-essential clause or phrase (nonrestrictive)** adds information that is not essential to the modified term's meaning. It does not say "what?" about the term it modifies.

Example: The English Center, which is located in Haley Center, is open on weekdays.

Connecting words

A **conjunctive adverb** connects clauses, whether they are dependent or independent.

Examples: therefore, moreover, however, furthermore, consequently, also

Conjunctions join words and word groups, signaling the relationships among these words.

Coordinating conjunctions link grammatically equal elements.

Examples: and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet

Subordinating conjunctions make dependent clauses dependent on independent clauses for a sentence to be complete.

Examples: after, because, when, if, while, where, as, unless, since