



**Let's Talk About...**

**Complete Sentences**



# The Basics

What is a complete sentence?

1. A Subject – The thing in the sentence
2. A Predicate – The verb or action
3. A complete thought – It can stand alone and makes sense. (It's independent!)

*John waited.*



# Independent Clause

*John waited.*

Independent clauses contain a subject and a predicate and can stand on their own. They are *complete sentences*. They can also contain a lot more information. Check out the next slide!

A stylized illustration at the top of the page features a bright yellow sun with a blue circle in the center, partially obscured by blue and white clouds. The background is a solid blue color with a subtle grid pattern.

# Can you spot the IC?

John waited.

John waited for the bus all morning.

John waited for the bus all morning in the rain.

Wishing he'd brought his umbrella, John waited for the bus all morning in the rain.

Wishing he'd brought his umbrella and dreaming of his nice warm bed, John waited for the bus all morning in the rain.



# Fragments – Not complete!

Fragments lack either a subject or a verb, or both. However, most students have trouble with fragments that are dependent clauses because they have a subject and a verb and *look* like complete sentences, but...

**THEY ARE MISSING ONE VERY IMPORTANT PART.**

***A COMPLETE THOUGHT!***



# Dependent Clause

Dependent clauses cannot stand alone. They need more information!

Because his car was in the shop (*What did he do?*)

After the rain stops (*What then?*)

If you want to go with me (*What should you do?*)



# Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating Conjunctions do two things:

1. Join two sentences together
2. Make one of the sentences dependent on the other for a complete thought (independent clause)



# Common Subordinating Conjunctions

after

how

though

while

although

however

where

who

as

if

wherever

unless

because

since

whereas

until

before

so that

whether

even though

that

which





# Reminder...

- Every **DEPENDENT CLAUSE** needs to be connected to an **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE**.

Because his car was in the shop, John took the bus.

John took the bus because his car was in the shop.



# Fixing Fragments

REMEMBER THE BASICS: *SUBJECT, VERB, & COMPLETE THOUGHT!*

Sarah went to the doctor. (independent clause)  
Because she was sick. (Uh oh! Fragment!)

Sarah went to the doctor because she was sick.  
(Hooray! It's fixed!)



# Works Consulted

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/fragments.html>. 14 November 2010. Web.

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003. Print.

*Hairston, Maxine, et al. The Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers.* 6<sup>th</sup> ed. USA: Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc. Print.