TERMS

Parts of Speech

**Noun:** a word that names a person, place, thing, quality, or idea (examples: Maggie, Alabama, clarinet, satisfaction, socialism).

**Pronoun:** a word used in place of a noun (examples: he, she, they, ours, somebody). See “Types of Pronouns” below.

**Verb:** a word or group of words indicating the action or state of being of a subject (examples: jump, hop, skip, run, is, are, were, will be, will have been).

**Preposition:** a word that starts a prepositional phrase. In the following examples of prepositional phrases, the first word is a preposition: around the house, under the car, in the back, through the roof.

**Articles:** the words a, an, and the.

**Adjective:** a word used to modify a noun (example: the red wagon) or pronoun (example: ordinary one).

**Adverb:** a word used to modify a verb (warmly greet), an adjective (only three people), or another adverb (quite seriously damaged).

**Conjunction:** a word that links parts of a sentence to each other. See “coordinating conjunction,” “subordinating conjunction,” and “correlative conjunction” under “Types of Conjunctions, Transitional Words, and Transitional Phrases” below.

Sentence Structure Terms

**Phrase:**

A phrase is a group of words that lacks a subject, a complete verb, or both.

Examples:
- In the dark
- Finding the answer

**Clause:**

A clause is a group of related words with both a subject and a predicate (verb).
**Independent Clause:**

An independent clause (also called a main clause) is a group of words that has a subject and a verb and does not start with a subordinating conjunction.

Example: I ate raspberries.

**Dependent Clause:**

A dependent clause (also called a subordinate clause) is a group of words that has a subject and a verb and starts with a subordinating conjunction. A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Example: After I ate raspberries

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**Types of Sentences**

**Simple Sentence:**

A simple sentence consists of one independent clause.

Example: I ate raspberries.

**Compound Sentence:**

A compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses separated by a comma and a coordinating conjunction or by a semicolon.

Example: I ate raspberries, and I developed a rash.
Example: I ate raspberries; I developed a rash.

**Complex Sentence:**

A complex sentence consists of at least one dependent clause and one independent clause.

Example: Because I ate raspberries, I developed a rash.

**Compound-complex Sentence:**

A compound-complex sentence consists of at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Example: Although I am allergic to raspberries, I ate them, so I developed a rash.
Types of Pronouns

Indefinite Pronouns:

Indefinite pronouns do not refer to a definite person, place, object, idea, or emotion. Most indefinite pronouns are singular, so they require a third-person singular verb. A pronoun that refers to an indefinite pronoun that is singular is also singular.

Common Indefinite Pronouns

Always Singular

- *one* words
  - anyone
  - everyone
  - no one
  - one
  - someone

- *thing* words
  - anything
  - everything
  - nothing
  - something

Always Plural

- both
- few

Singular or Plural

- all
- any
- more
- most
- none
- some

Miscellaneous Terms

Antecedent

An antecedent is the noun or pronoun to which a pronoun refers.
Example:
My cat hid under the bed when she had her kittens. (*Cat* is the antecedent of *she*; *she* is the antecedent of *her.*)

**Modifier:**

A modifier is a word that “describes” another word. It may be a single word or a phrase.

Examples:
I ate some delicious raspberries.
I ate some raspberries in the park.
I ate some raspberries that were really delicious.

**Participle and participial phrase:**

A participle is a form of a verb which is used as an adjective (descriptive word) or is part of a verb phrase. A participle cannot function alone as a main verb of a sentence or a clause. Verbs have two participles: present and past. The present participle ends in –ing. (*loving, helping*). The past participle of most verbs ends in –d, or -ed (*loved, helped*). The past participle of irregular verbs has different patterns (*taken, been, ridden*).

Examples:
*Looking* out the window, the *smiling* child waved to her mother.
The *excited* woman clutched her *winning* lottery ticket.
*Caught* in the act, the burglar surrendered to the police.

**Predicate:**

A predicate is the part of the sentence or clause, including the verb, that explains what the subject is or does.

**Types of Conjunctions, Transitional Words, and Transitional Phrases**

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

A subordinating conjunction is a word that begins a dependent (subordinate) clause.

*Common Subordinating Conjunctions*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>after</th>
<th>even if</th>
<th>since</th>
<th>when</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>although</td>
<td>even though</td>
<td>so</td>
<td>whenever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as</td>
<td>how</td>
<td>so that</td>
<td>where</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coordinating Conjunction:

A coordinating conjunction connects words or word groups of the same kind: nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, phrases, clauses, or whole sentences. You can use the acronym FANBOYS to remember the seven coordinating conjunctions.

- For
- And
- Nor
- But
- Or
- Yet
- So

Conjunctive Adverb:

A conjunctive adverb is a transitional word or phrase that begins a sentence. It is part of the sentence it begins. Conjunctive adverbs are not conjunctions: they are adverbs. Conjunctive adverbs show relationships such as addition, cause and effect, comparison, contrast, emphasis, or time.

Common Conjunctive Adverbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>addition</th>
<th>cause or effect</th>
<th>comparison or contrast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>also</td>
<td>accordingly</td>
<td>however</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>besides</td>
<td>as a result in</td>
<td>comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>further</td>
<td>consequently</td>
<td>in contrast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in addition</td>
<td>therefore</td>
<td>instead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incidentally</td>
<td>thus</td>
<td>likewise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moreover</td>
<td></td>
<td>nevertheless</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>emphasis</th>
<th>time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>certainly</td>
<td>finally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indeed</td>
<td>meanwhile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in fact</td>
<td>next</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>still</td>
<td>now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>undoubtedly</td>
<td>then</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Correlative Conjunction:

A correlative conjunction is a two-part conjunction.

*Common Correlative Conjunctions*

as...as  just as...so  not only...but also
both...and  neither...nor  whether...or