

# Phrases, Clauses, and Complex Sentences

## Clause

A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb.

## Phrase

A clause can be distinguished from a phrase, which does NOT contain a subject and a verb (e.g., *in the afternoon, drinking from the bowl*).

An independent clause can express a complete thought (and can be a standalone sentence).

A dependent clause is usually a supporting part of a sentence, and it cannot stand by itself as a meaningful proposition (idea).

## Compound Sentence

A compound sentence has **two or more clauses**:

(We stayed behind) and (finished the job)

(We stayed behind) and (finished the job), then (we went home)

The clauses in a compound sentence are joined by co-ordinating conjunctions:

John shouted **and** everybody waved.

We looked everywhere **but** we couldn't find him.

They are coming by car **so** they should be here soon.

The common coordinating conjunctions are:

**and - but - or - nor - so - then - yet**

## Complex Sentences

A complex sentence has one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

## Complex Sentence

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

