

# Basic Sentence Structure

writing in English



# A Simple Sentence

- A simple sentence can be as little as a subject and a verb.
- Example: What do you do? **I teach.**
- A simple sentence can be full of **prepositional phrases**:
- The teacher **in the classroom** is teaching grammar to the A-level students **in a large sunny room** **on the first floor** of the school.

# Independent Clause

- A simple sentence is also called an **Independent Clause**.
- It is a clause because it is a group of words that has at least a subject and a verb.
- It's independent because it doesn't need anything. It can stand alone.

# Independent Clause, continued

- Some examples are:
- He plays guitar. (Subject Verb Object)
- He can play everything on the guitar!  
(Subject x-word Verb Object + prepositional phrase)
- My sister who lives in Arizona practices speech pathology. ( Subject Relative clause Verb Object)

# Joining Two Independent Clauses

- When joining two independent clauses, you will put a comma (,) after the first clause. Next, you will use one of the following:
- **For And Nor But Or Yet So**
- ( for our writing we will mostly use **And, But** or **So**)
- Finally, you will write the other independent clause.

# Joining Two Independent Clauses, continued

- Examples:
- He wanted to pass the proficiency, **so** he studied day and night.
- He's a good student, **and** his sister is a good student too.
- She wants to pass the test, **but** she doesn't want to study too much.

# Dependent / Subordinate Clause

- Unlike independent clauses, dependent (or subordinate) clauses are **ALWAYS** found with an **independent clause** and are preceded with a **subordinating conjunction**.

# Some Subordinating Conjunctions:

after  
although  
as  
as soon as  
because  
before  
by the time  
even if  
even though  
every time  
if  
in case  
in the event that  
just in case  
now that

once  
since  
the first time  
though  
unless  
until  
when  
whenever  
while



# Joining Independent and Dependent Clauses

- If the **independent clause** comes first, you do NOT need a comma.
- Examples:
- **I prepared this presentation** because I want my students to pass the proficiency test.
- **You won't pass** unless you study hard and study often.

# Joining Independent and Dependent Clauses

- If the **dependent clause** comes first, you ABSOLUTELY need a comma (,).
- Examples:
- **Once you pass the test,** you can start your faculty classes.
- **Even though some of the classes can be boring,** the information will help you for the test.