



## Clauses

Recognizing clauses is important because clauses mold the basic sentence meaning. Clauses are to sentences as atoms are to molecules. Understanding the composition of a clause helps the writer to shape the structure of the sentence for meaning.

**Clause**-a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate

**Independent clause**-a clause that can stand alone as a sentence

**Conjunctive Adverb**-a word that creates logical connections in meaning

- [Independent Clause].  
*The telephone rang.*
- [Independent Clause], [Coordinating Conjunction] [Independent Clause].  
*The phone rang, and the dog barked.*
- [Independent Clause]; [Independent Clause].  
*The hurricane intensified; it turned toward land.*
- [Independent Clause]; [Conjunctive Adverb], [Independent Clause].  
*The phone rang; therefore, the dog barked.*

**Dependent clause**-a clause that cannot stand alone as a sentence

- [Dependent Clause], [Independent Clause].  
*Although the hour was late, the telephone rang.*
- [Independent Clause] [Dependent Clause].  
*The telephone rang although it was late.*

**Non-Restrictive Element**-a group of words that provides "extra" information to the reader. A reader could still understand the meaning of a sentence if the extra information were dropped.

- [Independent Clause]  
*Farming may not always be dependent on the weather.*
- [Independent Clause with a Non-Restrictive element enclosed].  
*Farming, **which is a major source of food production**, may not always be dependent on the weather.*

**Restrictive Element**-a group of words that provides information that is essential to the meaning of a sentence. Consequently, if this element were removed from the sentence the meaning of the sentence would change.

- [First part of an Independent Clause] [Restrictive Element] [End of the Independent Clause].  
***Farmers** retaining complete control over their land **are very hard to find these days**.*