Clauses

Subordinate Clauses: A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate.

There are two types of clauses, **independent** and **dependent**. **Independent clauses** (main clauses) make a complete statement and can stand alone as a sentence. **Dependent clauses** (also called subordinate clauses) are a group of words that begins with a subverting conjunction or relative pronoun (see below) and are not a complete sentence, but instead serves as an adjective, and adverb, or a noun.

Some common **coordinating conjunctions** include:

after	even if	so that	whereas
although	even though	than	wherever
as	how	that	whether
as if	if	though	while
as long as	if only	till	
as much as	in order that	unless	
as soon as	lest	until	
inasmuch	now (or provided) that	when	
as though	once	whenever	
because	rather than	where	
before	since		

Relative pronouns: that who/whom/whose

which whoever/whomever

To help avoid fragments, when proofreading any writing, the author should pay careful attention whenever any of these words appears at the beginning of a sentence.

If a subordinate clause (the subordinating conjunction plus the words that go along with it) begins the sentence, the clause should be followed by a comma, the subject, and the verb of the sentence.

Example: When the rain stopped, I walked to the store.

Subordinate clause: When the rain stopped

Subject: I

Verb: walked