

Clauses

A clause is a group of words that has both a subject and a verb. There are two types of clauses:

Independent Clause (Sentence) is a group of words that can stand alone as its own sentence.

Paulo went to the store.

Dependent Clause (Also called a subordinate clause or non-essential clause) is a group of words that can NOT stand alone. A dependent clause **MUST** be attached to an independent clause. (Get it...The dependent clause depends on the independent clause!)

Because he was hungry

This dependent clause is not a sentence, and it needs to be attached to an independent clause.

Because he was hungry, Paulo went to the store.

Or

Paulo went to the store because he was hungry.

The word *because* before *he was hungry* takes away the sentence's ability to stand alone. Words that turn sentences into NOT (incomplete) sentences are called subordinating conjunctions. (See pages 46 and 47 in *Guide to Grammar* or review the *Phrase/Non-Essential Clause Reference Chart* found under Key Info on the HSDQ Student Homepage)

Phrases

A phrase is a group of words that doesn't contain a subject and a verb. A phrase cannot stand alone. Phrases need to be removed (stripped) in order to find the foundation of the sentence (subject and verb).

Of the students

On the bus

The above are prepositional phrases that do not contain a subject and a verb.

All ~~of the students~~ climbed ~~on the bus~~. (All = subject Climbed = verb)

(See page 39 in *Guide to Grammar* or review the *Phrase/Non-Essential Clause Reference Chart* found under Key Info on the HSDQ Student Homepage)

Who.....Which....That

Who Which, That are relative pronouns.

WHO refers to a **person**

WHICH refers to a **thing**

THAT refers to a **thing**

WHO introduces both an **ESSENTIAL and a NON-ESSENTIAL clause!** If the “*who*” clause is necessary to retain the meaning of the sentence, then there shouldn’t be commas placed around it; if the “*who*” clause does not present essential information and does not affect the main sentence if omitted, then place commas around it.

My sister, who is the oldest child in our family, loves to ski.

The non-essential clause, *who is the oldest child in our family*, can be removed: *My sister loves to ski.*

Jackie knows who the winner is.

The essential clause, *who the winner is*, cannot be removed from the sentence without removing essential information.

KEY PUNCTUATION WHEN USING “WHO”: If non-essential then use a comma before this relative pronoun. If essential then do NOT use a comma before “*who*”.

WHICH introduces a **NON-ESSENTIAL clause** (dependent/subordinate clause). Use “*which*” when the clause CAN be eliminated from the sentence and the sentence still makes sense.

My blue sweater, which costs \$25, has two pockets in the front.

The non-essential clause, *which costs \$25*, can be removed, and we still have a complete sentence: *My blue sweater has two pockets in the front.*

We hung the sign above the front door, which was painted bright red.

Which was painted bright red is the non-essential clause that can be removed, and we still have a complete sentence: *We hung the sign above the front door.*

KEY PUNCTUATION WHEN USING “WHICH”: “*Which*” cannot stand alone! In most sentences, “*which*” needs a comma or preposition preceding it (before it).

THAT introduces an **ESSENTIAL clause** (independent clause/sentence). Use “*that*” if the information CAN’T be eliminated from the sentence because the sentence will no longer make sense or the main message will change.

The conch, an item that Piggy found on the shore when they first arrived, symbolizes free speech.

“that Piggy found” is essential to the understanding of the above sentence.

KEY PUNCTUATION WHEN USING “THAT”: “*That*” should stand alone! **DO NOT** put a comma before or after “*that*”.