

An **independent clause** is a clause containing a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE by itself: *Steve excels in the classroom.*

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE as part of a sentence:

Because he studies regularly, Steve excels in the classroom.

TWO INDEPENDENT CLAUSES joined in a compound sentence:

Steve is not a great athlete, but he excels in the classroom.

A **dependent clause** contains a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE as part of a sentence:

Because he studies regularly, Steve excels in the classroom.

Steve excels in the classroom because he studies regularly.

AAAWWUBBIS is an acronym to help you remember the basic subordinating conjunctions. An AAWWUBBIS turns a sentence/independent clause into a dependent clause.

After Although As When/Whenever While Until/Unless Because Before If Since

SENTENCE: I studied for the test.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE/FRAGMENT: Although I studied for the test.

CORRECT: Although I studied for the test, I still did poorly.

A **phrase** is a group of words that does not contain its own subject or verb. It cannot stand alone as a sentence. For the sake of brevity, we will focus on a few types of phrases that are generally set off by commas: **participial phrases**, **absolute phrases**, and **appositive phrases**.

Participial phrases consist of a verb form ending in -en, -ed, or -ing that functions as an adjective. Participial phrases should always be placed next to the word or words that they are modifying.

Ex. *Shaken and disturbed*, Aaron turned off the television.

FIGURE 3.6 • Unit Starter Page

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