## BUILDING SENTENCES: BASIC GRAMMATICAL PARTS

Understanding basic grammatical parts can help you improve your use of grammar. Likewise, improving your grammar will help you express your ideas clearly and fluidly.

Phrases and Clauses, Oh My!

<u>phrases and clauses</u>. A clause has a complete sentence core with a subject and a verb, while a phrase is a word group that lacks a subject, verb, or both.

Phrase: Daring him to walk across the street.

Clause: He walked across the street.

Types of Clauses: Independent and Dependent

A clause includes a subject and a verb, but not all clauses can stand alone. For example, one sentence below is an independent clause, and one is a dependent clause (also called a subordinate clause). Dependent (subordinate) clauses start with a subordinating conjunction, such as because, though, since, although, before, once, and when. See Hacker page 309 for a complete list.

Independent Clause

basement last winter.

Dependent Clause: While Sarah loved listening to the rain hit the roof of her tent.

Connecting Phrases and Clauses

communicate exactly what the speaker/writer intends. To actualize the intended meaning of a sentence, familiarize yourself with the various comma rules.

Commas connect and control <u>independent and dependent clauses</u>. When a dependent clause is placed at the beginning of the sentence, a comma is needed between the dependent and independent clauses.

Connecting Dependent Clauses to Independent Clauses

In the sentences below, commas are placed after the dependent clauses. The word that helps identify the clause as dependent (the subordinating conjunction) is underlined.

While some penguins have evolved to tolerate arctic conditions, others inhabit the warm waters of California.

The talk show reported that <u>though</u> awareness efforts about domestic abuse are increasing, many women feel abandoned.

Connecting Two Independent Clauses with a Coordinating Conjunction: