



When you have a group of words that contains both **actor** and **action** (subject and verb), it's called a **clause**.

When you have a clause that can stand on its own as a sentence—a word group with both actor and action that doesn't rely on anything else to communicate a complete idea—it's an **independent clause**.

No matter what else it has, **every complete sentence** must have an independent clause at its core.

To take a simple example, let's look at the sentence:

The search bar wasn't working.

We have our actor, **the search bar**, that's doing the action of **not working**. The idea is complete.

However, **not every clause can stand on its own**. Take, for instance, the following:

Although the bar is usually full on Saturdays.

We have the actor, **the bar**, and the action of **being full**. But what is the idea here? We don't have enough information to understand an entire coherent idea. **This is a fragment, not a sentence.**

The reason is that word "although"—it's a connecting word that makes this actor/action set rely on some other piece of information in order to make proper sense.

This type of connecting word is called a **subordinating conjunction**—it relates different parts of a sentence, making one part rely on another. Subordinating conjunctions create **dependent clauses**, which rely on another clause to create a full sentence.

To return to our example, let's see it as a **complete sentence**:

Although the bar is usually full on Saturdays, yesterday there were only a few patrons.

As we can see here, for this example to be a proper sentence, it needed two full clauses. Our main actor is the **patrons**, who performed the action of **being few**—making the one idea communicated by this sentence that only a few people were at the bar on Saturday.

● Fragment Examples ●

Fragments	Solutions
My friend Serena who loves to bake cookies. - Actor with no action	I have two classes with my friend Serena who loves to bake cookies.
Although his singing and dancing are both extremely well developed. - Dependent clause	Although his singing and dancing are both extremely well developed, his bad attitude makes him a hard actor to work with.
When my sister always used to share her snacks with me after school. - Dependent clause	I loved it when my sister always used to share her snacks with me after school.
Eating an apple without peeling it first. - Action with no actor	Harold is eating an apple without peeling it first.