Grammar Concepts, Part Two

Who cares whether that word is a coordinating conjunction, a preposition, or a linking verb? Writing is about communication, not about knowing the obscure technical jargon of cranky grammarians, right? You’re partly correct, but there are at least two key reasons to learn the basic vocabulary and concepts of grammar:

1. Communicating about your writing with instructors, tutors, and peers requires a shared vocabulary.
2. Understanding how language works enables you both to understand and to communicate more complex and challenging ideas.

For some of you, this may be review, but for others, this may be the first time you’ve encountered these terms. Take your time to absorb and review the terms during another, separate session at the WRC: Ask an instructor for other exercises or resources that explain the material in a different way.


2) Click on the link “Clauses” in the table titled “Sentence Parts: Function and Usage Notes.” View the PowerPoint presentation titled “Clauses: Building Blocks for Sentences” and answer the following questions:

a) A clause is a group of related words containing a ___________.

b) An independent clause is a clause that can ___________.

c) A dependent clause is a clause that cannot _____________.

d) What are the 3 ways to connect independent clauses?

i)

ii)

iii) Continued...
e) Words like "which," "that," and "who" are the subjects of what kind of dependent clause?

f) Understanding clauses and how they are connected within the larger structure of your sentence will help you avoid what 2 errors?
   i) 
   ii) 

3) Take the quiz titled "Recognizing Independent Clauses II" at the bottom of the page, click "Submit Application" and print the "graded" version.

4) Review your answer sheet and the quiz with an instructor or tutor at the WRC. Attach a confirmation sheet or get a signature below:

   Instructor/Tutor Signature   Date

Bright Idea! Copy and paste into a Microsoft Word document & adjust the size and spacing to print fewer pages.