

A *clause* is any group of words containing a subject and a predicate and joined together as a unit of thought.

A *main* or *independent clause* is a clause which can stand on its own as a complete sentence. It is a complete thought by itself.

I like candy.

Many people go to night school.

Mindy told Vinny a lie about his sister.

A subordinate or dependent clause is a clause that contains a subject and verb, but which cannot stand on its own as a complete sentence. It does not contain enough information and does not make sense by itself. A subordinate clause is introduced by a subordinate conjunction.

When the warm weather arrives, If you don't believe me,

If you don't know the subordinate conjunctions already, memorize the following:

## **Common Subordinate Conjunctions**

although that
as unless
because what
how when
if whether
since while

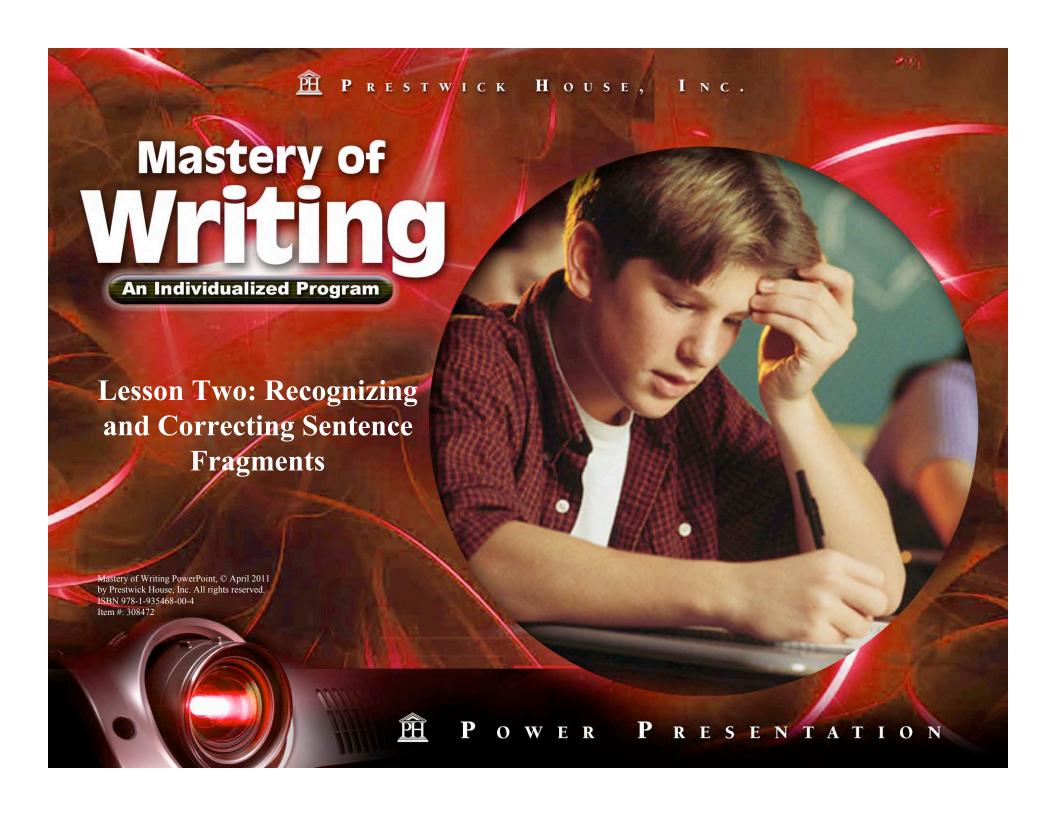
Any subordinate clause left to stand alone as a complete sentence is called a *sentence fragment*. It makes no sense on its own, and it must be connected to a main clause to become a *complete sentence*. A sentence containing only one main clause is called a *simple* sentence.

After you leave.

After you leave, I'll do my homework.

When the warm weather arrives.

When the warm weather arrives, I will plant a garden.



## Lesson Two

A *sentence fragment* is a group of words that does not make complete sense as a sentence.

- 1. running alongside the train
- 2. around the tip of the island bound for Java
- 3. Erickson and the rest of that dirty crew
- 4. billiards and ping pong are

#### Lesson Two

While we speak in sentence fragments all the time, you must avoid writing fragments. Sentence fragments set off "red warning lights" in a reader's head; consequently, your ideas may not be given the weight they deserve.

To avoid or correct a sentence fragment, you must first be able to recognize one. Since a sentence is defined as a group of words with a subject and predicate expressing a complete thought, what is missing from the previous fragments?

## Lesson Two

In #1, there is no subject or predicate.

1. running alongside the train

As written, it is a verbal phrase, which you could correct by adding a subject and predicate:

The man was running alongside the train.