

- Independent clauses
  - An independent clause has a **subject** and **predicate**.
  - The **subject** is a noun. This includes all descriptors of the noun.
  - The **predicate** is a verb. This is the action taken by the subject. This includes all descriptors of the action.
  - Independent clauses can be joined in three ways:
    - As different sentences
      - **She never realized how tall he was. Gathering her courage, she poked him.**
    - With a semicolon
      - She never realized how tall he was; gathering her courage, she poked him.
    - With a comma and conjunction
      - She never realized how tall he was, yet, gathering her courage, she poked him.
- Dialogue tags
  - Dialogue is a phrase within a sentence.
  - All normal punctuation applies until the end of the dialogue.
    - If it ends in a period, but the sentence continues, use a comma.
      - "Bark, bark. I am a dog," he said.
    - If it ends in anything else, keep the punctuation.
      - "Bark, bark. I am a dog?" he asked.
    - Either way, if the sentence continues, use normal capitalization. Don't capitalize common nouns (see above: "he" is not capitalized).
  - Dialogue within dialogue is offset by single quotes. Deeper layers switch between double and single quotes.
    - "I'm not the one who said, 'Let's use single quotes when saying, "Here I am," but here we are.'"
  - There can only be one speaker per paragraph. If you have a new speaker, it must be in a new paragraph.
    - It can be helpful to keep one actor per paragraph, but it's not required by grammar.