**Independent Clauses** vs. **Dependent Clauses**

An *independent clause* stands alone as a sentence and uses *coordinating conjunctions* to connect two independent clauses together.

**Examples of Coordinating Conjunctions**
- for
- but
- so
- and
- or
- nor
- yet

A *dependent clause* amplifies an independent clause and cannot stand alone. Also, it usually begins with a *subordinating conjunction*.

**Examples of Subordinating Conjunctions**
- as
- than
- where
- because
- that
- wherever
- if
- though
- why
- since
- when
- so that
- whenever

**Sentence Types**

**Simple Sentence**: contains one independent clause.

Example: *Jim is in love with Pam.*

**Compound Sentence**: contains two or more independent clauses, and is usually connected by a coordinating conjunction.

Example: *Jim is in love with Pam, but Pam thinks they are only friends.*

**Complex Sentence**: contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause connected by a subordinating conjunction.

Example: *Jim is in love with Pam who thinks they are only friends.*

**Compound-complex Sentence**: contains at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

Example: *Jim is in love with Pam, but Pam thinks that they are only friends.*