Grammar Terms

Noun: A person, place, thing, or idea. Ex. *Tom, Boston, table, freedom.*

Proper Noun: A name used for an <u>individual</u> person, place, or organization. Ex. *Daniel, Madrid, Boston Bruins.*

Collective Nouns: Words that imply more than one person but that are considered singular and take a singular verb, such as group, team, committee, class, and family. Ex. *The team runs during practice. The family has a long history.*

Pronoun: A word that can be used <u>in place</u> of a noun to avoid having to repeat the noun. Ex. *he, she, him, her, it, they, them* etc. "Michael walks quickly since **he** is late."

Possessive Pronoun: A pronoun indicating possession. Ex. *his, hers, its, theirs.*

Subject: The noun that serves as the <u>focus</u> of the sentence or <u>preforms</u> an action (required in every sentence). Ex. "**Tom** throws the ball."

Object: The noun that <u>receives</u> the action done by the subject (not required in every sentence). Ex. "Tom throws the **ball.**"

Verb: A word that <u>describes</u> an action, occurrence, or state in a sentence (required in every sentence). Ex. to *run, to jump, to sit,* etc. "Michael **walks** quickly."

Preposition: A word describing the relationship between a noun or pronoun and another word. Ex. *over, under, around, on, in, near, before, after, between,* etc. "The bird is **in** the birdbath."

Conjunction: A word used to connect clauses or phrases.
- *Coordinating conjunctions - for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so,* (fanboys) - are used to join independent clauses to make compound sentences. You can use coordinating conjunctions to revise run-on sentences and comma splices. Ex. "Liz likes tennis, **but** she does not like ping-pong."
- *Subordinating conjunctions - after, although, as, because, before, even though, if, rather than, since, that, though, unless, until, when, where, whether, which, while* - are used to join independent clauses to make complex sentences. Ex. "I wanted to get more soda because it's hard to eat popcorn without it."
- In this sentence, the subordinate clause is at the end. It would also be correct to place the subordinate clause at the beginning of the sentence: Ex. "Because it's hard to eat popcorn without it, I wanted to get more soda. " (Notice that when the subordinate clause comes at the beginning, it's necessary to insert a comma.)

Fragments: Incomplete sentences. Usually, fragments are pieces of sentences that have become disconnected from the main clause. One of the easiest ways to correct them is to remove the period between the fragment and the main clause. Other kinds of punctuation may be needed for the newly combined sentence. Ex: "Purdue offers many majors in engineering. *Such as electrical, chemical, and industrial engineering.*"
- **Possible Revision**: Purdue offers many majors in engineering**, s**uch as electrical, chemical, and industrial engineering. (A comma needs to be added before the clause.)

Dependent Clause: A dependent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and verb but does not express a complete thought. A dependent clause cannot be a sentence. Often a dependent clause is marked by a *dependent marker word.* Ex. *"When* Jim studied in the Sweet Shop for his chemistry quiz" . . . (What happened when he studied? The thought is incomplete.)