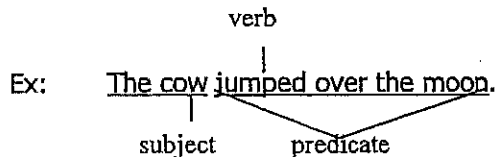Ex: One little mouse **has run** out of steam. (has = auxiliary verb)

TERMS TO KNOW: Clauses and Sentence Types

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE (sometimes called MAIN CLAUSE): group of words that consists of a **subject** and **predicate** (including a **verb**) and makes a complete statement. Every **sentence** must contain at least one independent clause, and an independent clause can stand alone as a sentence.

Ex:

        verb
         |
The cow jumped over the moon.
 | _____ _____/
subject   predicate

DEPENDENT CLAUSE (sometimes called SUBORDINATE CLAUSE): group of words that contains a **subject** and a **verb**, but does not make a complete statement -- so it's *not* a **sentence.**

> Some dependent clauses start with **relative pronouns** (*who, whom, whose, which, that*). These are called **relative clauses,** and they act as adjectives, modifying the noun or pronoun that comes before them.

Ex: Old McDonald's cow, **which must have been on steroids,** jumped over the moon.

> Other dependent clauses start with **subordinate conjunctions** (such as *after, although, because, before, if, since, when, while* and many others). Putting a subordinate conjunction at the beginning of the clause makes it sound incomplete; it depends on something else to complete its meaning.

Ex: **Because she was looking for greener pastures,** (dependent clause – not a complete thought)

Because she was looking for greener pastures, the cow jumped over the moon.
_____ _____/ _____ _____/
 dependent clause   independent clause

NOTE: Without the word "because," the clause "she was looking for greener pastures" could stand alone as an independent clause; it would be a complete sentence. The addition of "because" or any other subordinate conjunction is what makes the clause sound incomplete.

A dependent clause that is not attached to an independent clause is just a partial sentence; it is one type of **sentence fragment.**

COMPOUND SENTENCE: Has two or more **independent clauses** joined by a **semicolon** or by a **comma** plus coordinating conjunction *(and, or, but, for, yet, so).*

> Ex: **The cow jumped over the moon; NASA decided to investigate.**