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There are 5 patterns for building sentences:

John sleeps. John loves his job. John is funny. John is here. John is the teacher.

and are both clusters of words.

A is a word cluster lacking subject and verb combinations:

For the duration of the year

A contains a subject and a verb. If it forms a complete thought it is an If it is an incomplete thought it is a or a .

While we collected the data, the temperature increased.dependent clauseindependent clause

are ways of combining words, phrases, and clauses into more complex

forms.

uses coordinating conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs (with appropriate punctuation), or punctuation to combine short independent clauses into a single sentence. Examples

There are . Tenses are all used to indicate action that has taken place in the past, present, and future. Tenses should be kept consistent; inconsistencies occur when shifting between past and present tense reflecting actual changes in time. The following example, adapted from *The Little*, *Brown Compact Handbook 5th Canadian Edition*, illustrates tense shift:

Inconsistent: The main character suffers

Exception 3: Nouns that end in "f" form the plural by changing the "f" to "v" and then adding an "es." half/halves, leaf/leaves
Exception 4: Nouns that end in "fe" form the plural by changing the "f" to "v" and then adding only an "s." knife/knives, life/lives
There are many noun forms that one must commit to memory: man/men, woman/women, child/children, tooth/teeth, mouse/mice, goose/geese

Verbs must agree in number with their subjects. The basic rule is that a singular subject takes a singular verb, and a plural subject takes a plural verb.

The <u>book I</u> ordered <u>is</u> on the desk. (singular subject, singular verb) The books