SENTENCES AND CLAUSES

A group of words that make complete sense is a *sentence*. A sentence may make a statement, ask a question, give a command or make a request. A sentence has a finite verb in it; a phrase hasn't. Sentences may be joined together by a conjunction or conjunction(s).

As you know, a sentence must have a verb in it. A sentence that has only one verb in it is called a *simple sentence*. These are simple sentences:

The boy opened the door.	(STATEMENT)
Did the boy opened the door?	(QUESTION)
Open the door, please.	(REQUEST)
Open the door at once.	(COMMAND)

A sentence that is made of two or more simple sentences joined by a conjunction(s) is called a *compound sentence*. These are compound sentences.

The boy opened the door and walked into the room.
John works hard but Chris is lazy.

Each of the sentences in a compound sentence makes complete sense by itself. The sentences in a compound sentence are all of the same importance. But there are some sentences that are not able to stand by themselves. They contain a verb (as all sentences do) but they make complete sense only when they are used with another sentence. They are called *clauses*.

A clause is a sentence that does not make complete sense by itself. It depends on another sentence for its full meaning.