Clauses

Clauses are any group of words with a subject and a predicate. You can think of them as group of words linked together by a verb (as opposed to phrases, which have no active verb). There are two types of clauses:

1) **Independent Clauses**. These are clauses that can stand on their own and make complete sense; in short, they could be written as a sentence in and of themselves.
Ex: *I went to the store*, *but I could not find the bread*. (Two ind. clauses.)

Independent Clauses can be joined by **coordinating conjunctions** (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) to make compound sentences.

Note: Coordinating conjunctions look like, but are not the same as, transitional (or connective) adverbs: however, therefore, moreover, nevertheless, consequently, though[1], besides, on the other hand, henceforth, then, accordingly, hence, likewise, and still. Coordinating conjunctions are used with commas and are generally not used to start a sentence; transitional adverbs can freely be used at the beginning of a sentence, and must be used with a semicolon instead of a comma.

Transitional adverbs also can be moved often to the middle of the sentence, while coordinating conjunctions cannot.
Ex: *He got up quickly to get the last piece of pie. However, Joe moved quicker.*
Or
He got up quickly to get the last piece of pie. Joe, however, moved quicker.

2) **Dependent Clauses**. These are clauses that do not make sense by themselves; they *depend* on another clause for their meaning.
Ex: ***Although I went to the store***, *I could not find what I was looking for—the bread.*

Dependent clauses begin with a **subordinating conjunction** (if, because, when, since, where, while, whereas, after, before, until, till, as if, although, even though, though, than).

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[1] Used here as a synonym for however, not as short version of although