

## Clauses

Another sentence part, a clause, is a group of related words that has both a subject and a verb. The two kinds of clauses are independent and dependent.

An independent clause is a sentence and needs no other words to complete its message. Below are examples of independent clauses:

At twilight, swallows swooped low.

Why does Mom snore?

Plant the petunias first.

Help! The toaster is on fire.

A dependent clause also has a subject and a verb but is not a sentence because other words must be added to complete its message. All dependent clauses begin with special words, the most common of which are listed below:

after	before	that	whenever	whoever
although	even though	though	where	whom
as	how	unless	wherever	whomever
as if	if	until	which	
as long as	since	what	whichever	
as though	so that	whatever	while	
because	than	when	who	

Each of these words brings up a question that is unanswered within the dependent clause; therefore, you must add an independent clause to complete the message. Below are examples of dependent clauses:

unless Anthony studies more

although I twisted my ankle

if the hurricane hits Charleston

Notice now adding an independent clause turns these dependent clauses into sentences with complete messages:

Unless Anthony studies more, he may have to repeat algebra.

Although I twisted my ankle, I was still able to work.

School will be closed if the hurricane hits Charleston.



**HINT:** Although a dependent clause may be corrected in other ways, adding an independent clause is generally the most effective way of correction because you avoid choppiness.

## **IDENTIFY**

***The Three Phrases With P.***

***The Four Dependent Clauses With D.***

***The Three Independent Clauses With I.***

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. before a light lunch
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. before a light lunch was served
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. a light lunch was served
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. whenever the softball tournament ends Saturday
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. after the end of the softball tournament Saturday
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. ending the softball tournament on Saturday
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. there sat the winners
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. since the heavy rains began in Louisiana
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. climb in my window
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. if you study your English assignments daily and diligently

## **UNDERLINE THE DEPENDENT CLAUSE IN EACH SENTENCE.**

- 1. While Tuffy was flying over the Atlantic Ocean, he became airsick.
- 2. The visitor appeared nervous as he entered the prison.
- 3. The leather purse which Tracy lost was a birthday gift from her husband.
- 4. We drove to the mountain resort where we had spent our honeymoon.
- 5. Open the door when I knock three times.
- 6. The mail carrier carefully watched the bulldog that was growling savagely.
- 7. After the senior play ended, the entire cast celebrated at Pizza Hut.
- 8. Because of allergic reactions to stings, Phyllis must watch for bees wherever she is.
- 9. The pastor whom my father heard preach last night will lead the spring revival at First Christian Church.
- 10. Did you ever wonder how Michael Jordan flies?