

## The Subordinate Clause

- 6c.** A **subordinate** (or **dependent**) **clause** does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

A subordinate clause must be joined with at least one independent clause to make a sentence and express a complete thought.

**EXAMPLES** Since I was curious about acupuncture, I looked it up in an encyclopedia.  
The information that I found was fascinating.

**EXERCISE A** Identify the underlined clause in each of the following sentences by writing above it *SUB* for *subordinate clause* or *IND* for *independent clause*.

**Example 1.** Acupuncture, <sup>*SUB*</sup> which is my research topic, is a Chinese medical technique.

1. Although acupuncture is an ancient medical technique, it is still in use today.
2. The treatment is based on the idea that it helps bring into balance the yin and the yang.
3. Many areas of the world, including China, use this technique.
4. If you have a fear of needles, do not try acupuncture.
5. Acupuncture involves the insertion of tiny needles, which are made of metal, into the skin.
6. Since this technique uses no medication, some people may prefer it to prescription medicines.
7. For example, someone suffering mental depression might choose acupuncture over medication.
8. Other disorders that acupuncture treats are swollen joints, nosebleeds, and heart pains.
9. In China, patients who have surgery may choose acupuncture as anesthesia.
10. Until I'm braver, I won't try acupuncture.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the subordinate clause in each sentence.

**Example 1.** I studied the philosophy of yin-yang because it emphasizes balance.

11. According to ancient belief, the yin and the yang are two forces that make up all aspects of life.
12. The symbol of the yin and yang, which is a circle with intertwining black and white teardrop shapes, is familiar to many people.
13. Since yin, the female half, represents earth and darkness, it is the black half.
14. Because the yang, the male half, represents brightness and the heavens, it is the white half.
15. In yin-yang philosophy, which values harmony and balance, the black and the white are equally important.

for CHAPTER 6: THE CLAUSE page 114

# Independent and Subordinate Clauses A

**6b.** An **independent** (or **main**) **clause** expresses a complete thought and can stand by itself as a sentence.

**6c.** A **subordinate** (or **dependent**) **clause** does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** If you need me, **I will help you.**

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** **If you need me,** I will help you.

**EXERCISE** For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word group by writing above it *IND* for *independent clause* or *SUB* for *subordinate clause*.

**Example 1.** The friend <sup>*SUB*</sup> who is visiting this weekend is Melody.

1. When Jeremy called last night, I was not at home.
2. I know the woman who owns that store.
3. John is the boy who is on the swim team.
4. It is hot today; please water the garden.
5. If he finishes his report on time, he can go to the beach Saturday.
6. This is the poem that I memorized last year.
7. The student whom I recommend for class president is Lindsey.
8. I can't concentrate when you practice the trumpet with your door open.
9. Although these colors are beautiful, I don't like the painting.
10. The man whom you met is the president of the group.
11. The girls who painted that mural live in my neighborhood.
12. When you reach the end of the hallway, turn right.
13. Please fold these clothes before they become wrinkled.
14. After we wrapped the presents, we hurried to the post office.
15. We didn't go to her party because we went camping that weekend.
16. The trees that my great-grandfather planted still shade the farmhouse.
17. Whenever you dust the shelves, I sneeze.
18. My aunt stays at our house when she comes to the city for business meetings.
19. The CD that you borrowed last week is due at the library today.
20. Preheat the oven to 350°, and take the chicken out of the refrigerator.