

Clauses

- 6a.** A **clause** is a word group that contains a verb and its subject and that is used as a sentence or as part of a sentence.

A clause that expresses a complete thought is called an *independent clause*. A clause that does not make sense by itself is called a *subordinate clause*.

NOT A CLAUSE I enjoy **writing in purple ink**. [This word group is not a clause because it does not contain both a verb and its subject.]

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE **I write** when I am angry or confused.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE I write **when I am angry or confused**.

EXERCISE A For each of the following sentences, identify the subject and the verb in the underlined part of the sentence. Above the subject write S, and above the verb write V.

Example 1. At the local bookstore I bought a blank book.

1. An antique map of the world is on the cover of my journal.
2. To me, this map represents the undiscovered areas of my mind.
3. When I read entries from months ago, I usually learn something about myself.
4. I often write about experiences because I need an outlet for my emotions.
5. I vent my frustrations in writing, and I feel better afterwards.

EXERCISE B For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word group by writing above it C for clause or NC for not a clause.

Example 1. Writing down the angry comments that I think of is better than saying them aloud to a friend.

6. If I let a few days go by, I usually do not feel the same anger.
7. I then wonder what would have happened if I had actually said those things aloud!
8. During the past two years, I have filled four blank books with journal entries.
9. I know that many fascinating novelists and poets kept journals.
10. Sometimes the writer will use his or her own experiences to inspire a story.
11. Although I do not enjoy feeling sadness or fear, I am able to write about them convincingly.
12. I can write convincingly because I have experienced these emotions myself.
13. Several of my friends have told me that my stories should be published.
14. Not even my best friend, whom I have known for three years, has ever read my journal.
15. I believe that everyone deserves a certain amount of privacy.

The Independent Clause

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

EXAMPLES Sheldon can make homemade pizzas.

Sheldon can make homemade pizzas, and he made one for me.

EXERCISE A Underline the independent clause or clauses in each of the following sentences.

Examples 1. Sheldon made whole-wheat pizza dough, and then he spread the dough in a pan.

2. He used a nonstick pan because he wanted cleanup to be easy.

1. After he prepared the dough, Sheldon washed mushrooms, green peppers, and an onion.
2. He peeled the onion, and he chopped the vegetables into bite-size chunks.
3. The next step was sautéing the vegetables until they were tender.
4. I wanted to make myself useful, so I grated the mozzarella and Parmesan cheese.
5. Now we had two bowls of ingredients, which were the vegetables and the cheese.
6. I also opened a jar of pizza sauce, and I spread the sauce on the dough.
7. Then came the fun part!
8. Sheldon spread the vegetables evenly across the sauce, and I added the cheese on top.
9. After baking at 450° for twenty-five minutes, the pizza was ready.
10. What a delicious pizza it was!

EXERCISE B For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word group by writing above it *I* for *independent clause* or *NI* for *not an independent clause*.

Example 1. ^{NI} Since I met you, I've become more interested in baseball.

11. I never watched baseball games on television before meeting you.
12. We then watched games for several weekends in a row.
13. Now I understand the game much better.
14. When the game makes sense, it is suspenseful and enjoyable.
15. Since I have never played baseball, you can teach me!

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, ^{*SUB*} 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.

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 ^{*SUB*} 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.