

Lesson 1
Kinds of Clauses

Reteaching

A **clause** is a group of words that contains both a subject and a verb. An **independent, or main, clause** expresses a complete thought and forms a sentence.

My favorite season is spring.
SUBJECT VERB

A **subordinate, or dependent, clause** contains a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence. Subordinate clauses are often introduced by such words as *although, if, because, how, what, why, that, when, and since*.

Although the days are cool (What happens despite this?)

A subordinate clause must always be combined with an independent clause.

Although the days are cool, the sun is visible longer.
SUBORDINATE CLAUSE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

A subordinate clause should not be confused with a verbal phrase, which does not have a subject and a verb.

Tracking hours of sunlight, we look forward to summer. (phrase)

As we track hours of sunlight, we look forward to summer. (subordinate clause)

A. Identifying Clauses

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **C** for a clause and **P** for a phrase.

1. The seasons occur **because the amount of sunlight changes.** _____
2. **With the days so short and the sun so low in the sky,** the winter air barely warms up. _____
3. Spring nights are usually cool, **but spring days may be warm.** _____
4. **Hanging high in the sky,** the sun heats up summer days. _____

B. Identifying Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **IND** for independent clause or **SUB** for subordinate clause.

1. A full moon appears larger **as it emerges from behind clouds.** _____
2. **The housefly has five eyes,** which are located on the upper part of its head. _____
3. **While red lights repel birds,** white lights attract them. _____
4. The campers learned **what the poison ivy vine looks like.** _____
5. **What bedtime story will you tell the children** if they stay up late? _____
6. When Peter changed his clothes for the party, **he forgot to comb his hair.** _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Phrases and Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **P** for a phrase, **IC** for an independent clause, and **SC** for a subordinate clause.

1. **After Anthony worked all summer as a waiter**, he bought a car. _____
2. The king issued a proclamation **against shooting bears in the region**. _____
3. **When the sun is close to the horizon**, it looks larger. _____
4. Since Cleo moved to New York six months ago, **she has had three jobs**. _____
5. **There were no newspapers in America** until one was published in Boston in 1690. _____
6. **Climbing the stairs to the top of the Washington Monument** requires endurance. _____
7. The person **who is climbing the hill** is my mother. _____
8. **If you have solved that puzzle**, I'll give you a more difficult one. _____
9. **After making several comparisons**, Greg was ready to buy a stereo. _____
10. When Katrina arrived home after the late band practice, **she was tired**. _____

B. Identifying Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Each sentence contains two clauses. In the blanks provided, identify each clause as independent or subordinate by writing **IND + IND**, **IND + SUB**, or **SUB + IND**.

1. Weather forecasts are of interest to all of us, but they are vital to pilots, sailors, and farmers. _____
2. Because knowledge of the weather is so important, forecasters take great care to be accurate. _____
3. Forecasters take measurements from weather stations, which are located all over the world. _____
4. Did you know that the Eureka weather station is only 600 miles from the North Pole? _____
5. Satellites transmit weather data, and computers assemble the information. _____
6. When it was launched on April 1, 1960, *Tiros I* was the first weather satellite. _____
7. Since weather high up in the atmosphere affects weather below, forecasters send up balloons carrying instruments. _____
8. Small parachutes carry the instruments down until they are safely on the ground. _____

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Application

A. Using Subordinate Clauses in Writing

Rewrite each sentence, adding a subordinate clause that begins with the word in parentheses.

EXAMPLE The customer requested a TV. (that)
The customer requested a TV that would fit on a desk.

1. My mother does not approve of my watching TV. (unless)

2. We were just sitting down to dinner. (when)

3. French is the language. (that)

4. We will win the championship. (if)

5. George Washington was commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. (before)

B. Revising

The following paragraph has no capitalization to mark sentence beginnings, or end marks to indicate their endings. Insert a period after the last word of each sentence, and mark the first letter in each sentence with a triple underscore ≡, the proofreading symbol for capitalization. When you are finished, write the number of sentences that combine both an independent and a dependent clause.

Number of sentences with both an independent and a dependent clause: _____

Before weather forecasters used satellites and radar, people looked for clues in nature for predicting the weather since people did not have sophisticated equipment, they watched the behavior of animals, birds, and insects some signs are reliable, but others should not be trusted here are some examples of what people once believed if you can see a groundhog's shadow on February 2, there will be six more weeks of winter when the sky is red at sunset, good weather will follow when the sky is red at sunrise, the weather can't be trusted Germans kept frogs to predict rain because frogs croak more in low air pressure pinecones have been used to forecast weather because they open up in dry weather they close up when the weather is damp we are lucky that weather forecasting techniques have improved.