

Learning Target

- Use various types of clauses to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing and presentations.
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Clauses contain subjects and verbs and may contain modifiers, objects, complements, and other sentence parts. Different kinds of sentences contain different numbers and kinds of clauses. You can use various kinds of clauses to express different relationships among ideas, to create a more sophisticated style, and to increase reader or listener interest.

An **independent clause** contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone as a complete sentence.

EXAMPLE: This is an independent clause.

A **dependent** (or **subordinate**) **clause** contains a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

EXAMPLE: because this is a dependent clause

There are different kinds of dependent clauses. Using a variety of dependent clauses can enliven your writing.

A **noun clause** can act as a subject, object, appositive, or any other sentence part that a one-word noun can.

What I'd like is a good night's sleep. *[The clause acts as a subject of the sentence.]*

They don't know **whether to call or text her**. *[The clause acts as the object of the verb do know.]*

An **adjectival clause** (often called a **relative clause**) acts as a modifier of a noun or pronoun.

The poodle **that Miles picked** has curly white fur. *[The clause modifies poodle.]*

An **adverbial clause** acts as a modifier of a verb, adjective, or other adverb.

Before you eat lunch, leave your books in your locker. *[The clause modifies the verb leave.]*

Thrilled **because I made the team**, I texted my parents immediately. *[The clause modifies the adjective Thrilled.]*

Check Your Understanding: Identifying and Using Clauses

- A. For each of the following five sentences, identify each boldface clause as *independent* or *dependent*. If the clause is dependent, tell whether it is a *noun clause*, *adjectival clause*, or *adverbial clause*.

Example: Bats **that live under this bridge** fly out at night in droves and eat mosquitos.

dependent, adjectival clause

1. **Although he had time**, he forgot to finish the assignment.
 2. Is this version of the game the one **that you prefer**?
 3. **We're having a yard sale this weekend**, and I hope to earn money by selling unneeded objects.
 4. **Whether to sign up for the club** will have to be your decision.
 5. We rearranged our schedule **so that you can join us**.
- B. Rewrite the following bare-bones paragraph, adding dependent clauses to provide detail and make the writing more interesting. Add at least five dependent clauses, making sure to include at least one of each kind of clause: adjectival clause, adverbial clause, and noun clause. Underline each clause you add and indicate what kind of dependent clause it is.

My family is going on vacation next month. We will drive out of state. We are planning to visit my aunt and uncle and go sightseeing. The vacation will last two weeks.