

Clauses

Clauses are groups of words that have a subject and a verb.

There are two main types of clauses:

Independent (main): express complete thoughts. They can be complete sentences by themselves.

Dependent (subordinate): Does not express a complete thought and cannot be a sentence on its own. Think of them as a part of a sentence.

<i>Dependent Clause</i>	Independent Clause
<i>Until Captain Cooke returned from his voyage to Tahiti,</i>	Tattooing was not known in the Western World.
<i>Although they had the worst batting average in baseball,</i>	The New York Mets won the World Series in 1969.
<i>Because his salary in 1930 and 1931 was \$80,000,</i>	Babe Ruth was the best-paid athlete in the world at the time.

The **independent clauses** above contain subjects and predicates and can stand alone as their own sentences. Take a closer look:

<i>Subject</i>	Predicate
<i>Tattooing</i>	Was not known in the Western World
<i>The New York Mets</i>	Won the World Series in 1969
<i>Babe Ruth</i>	Was the best-paid athlete in the world at the time

Dependent (subordinate) clauses add additional information to the main clause but cannot be complete thoughts by themselves even though they have a subject and a predicate. Think of them like children; they are unable to support themselves—they are dependent on another sentence part to make them complete sentences.

Hint: Dependent clauses often times start with a word that makes it unable to be a complete sentence on its own. In the example sentences above, the dependent clauses begin with the subordinating conjunctions until, although, and because.



Dependent clause can appear anywhere in a sentence, even in the middle of an independent clause.

-People *who had money* traveled first class.

-Immigrants endured difficult journeys *because they hoped for a better life*.