

Independent & Dependent Clauses

Grade 4 • IB / PYP English Language Worksheet

Learning Goal

I can identify independent and dependent clauses and use them to build complete sentences.

1. What is a clause?

A **clause** is a group of words that contains a **subject** and a **verb**.

Type	What does it do?	Example
Independent Clause	It expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.	The children played outside.
Dependent Clause	It does not express a complete thought. It needs an independent clause to complete its meaning.	because the sun was shining

2. A simple way to remember

■ **Independent = I can stand alone!**

Example: **I finished my homework.** ✓

■ **Dependent = I need a friend!** It often begins with words such as **because, when, if, although, while, after, before**.

Example: **because I was tired** ✗ — it needs more information.

3. Let's practise: Independent or Dependent?

Write **I** for Independent or **D** for Dependent.

1. The puppy barked loudly. _____
2. because it heard a noise _____
3. When the rain stopped _____
4. We went outside. _____
5. My brother loves football. _____
6. although she was nervous _____
7. The teacher smiled. _____
8. if you finish your work _____

4. Circle the complete thought

Circle the clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.

A. because the bell rang **OR** The students packed their bags.

B. when we reached the park **OR** We found a shady tree.

C. although it was cold **OR** The children played outside.

D. if you need help

OR Ask your teacher.

5. Join the clauses

Use the word in brackets to join the two clauses. Remember: a dependent clause needs an independent clause.

1. I wore my raincoat. _____ It was raining. **(because)**

2. We went to the library. _____ It was quiet. **(because)**

3. I will help you. _____ You ask me. **(if)**

4. The children cheered. _____ the team scored a goal. **(when)**

5. Sara finished her project. _____ she was tired. **(although)**

6. Find the clauses

Underline the **independent clause** once and the **dependent clause** twice.

1. Because it was raining, we stayed inside.
2. When the teacher arrived, the class became quiet.
3. I smiled because my friend told a funny joke.
4. Although the test was difficult, Ali kept trying.

7. Build your own sentence ⇒ ■

Complete each sentence using your own ideas.

1. Because I was hungry, _____
2. When the school bell rang, _____
3. I was happy because _____
4. Although it was raining, _____

8. Challenge Corner ■

Write **one independent clause** and **one dependent clause**. Then join them to make a meaningful sentence.

Independent clause	Dependent clause

My complete sentence:

■ **Remember:** An independent clause makes sense on its own. A dependent clause needs an independent clause to complete the thought!