

Is It an Independent Clause or a Dependent Clause?

An independent, or coordinate, clause is a clause that expresses a complete thought and can stand alone.

A dependent, or subordinate, clause is a clause that does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone.

Curt called his father who was still at work.

In the example *Curt called his father* is an independent clause. It would be a complete sentence without anything else added to it. The clause *who was still at work* is a dependent clause. It does not express a complete thought and is not a complete sentence.

Below are sentences with a clause underlined. In the blank below the sentence, write whether the underlined clause is independent or dependent.

1. The teacher who lives next door to Rob is Mrs. Johnson. _____
2. Our dog will run away if the gate is left open. _____
3. Because the storm knocked out the power, school will be canceled on Thursday. _____
4. This is the homework assignment that you missed last week. _____
5. The movie was good although it was too long. _____
6. Victoria heard what her sister said, but she ignored it. _____
7. The moon shone on the ocean while the whales rose to the surface. _____
8. At the end of his class, Jim walked to his locker where the coach was waiting. _____

Name: _____

Write "S" for simple sentences and "C" for compound sentences.

Emily won the game. (S)

Emily won the game, so she received a medal. (C)

S

1. Clocks go forward in the spring.

_____ 2. They left early, so they arrived first.

_____ 3. Danny practices the guitar every day.

_____ 4. They did not brush their teeth, nor did they comb their hair.

_____ 5. This building has several elevators and stairwells.

_____ 6. We took the city bus, but it was crowded.

_____ 7. Some grocery stores are open on Sundays.

_____ 8. I did not eat any cookies, yet there are none left.

_____ 9. The ferry does not operate at night.

_____ 10. He finished his book, and he has nothing left to read.

_____ 11. The birds are singing in the trees and the bushes.

_____ 12. They do not fear ghosts, nor do they fear monsters.

