

# Clauses

A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb. Some clauses are complete sentences and are called **independent clauses** because they can stand alone. Other clauses are not complete sentences and are called **dependent clauses**.

Examples:

- **Independent clause:** The koala ate eucalyptus after he took a nap.
- **Dependent clause:** The koala ate eucalyptus after he took a nap.

Both of these clauses contain a subject and a verb, but only "The koala ate eucalyptus" is able to stand alone as a sentence.



Words like **when**, **where**, **before**, **after**, and **because** signal a dependent clause. These clauses give us more information. These clauses can either come at the beginning or the end of the sentence.

Examples:

» **My family was surprised when my mom said we were going skiing.**  
• **Jim did not know where the treasure was hidden.** «

**Important!** When the dependent clause is first, remember to use a comma to separate the dependent clause from the independent clause.

Examples:

» **Before I started exercising, I did not have much energy.**  
**After we won the science competition, we all went out for pizza.** «



Verbal  
Linguistic

Fill in the missing part of each clause below. Remember, your clause needs to have a subject and a verb.

1. I was so excited when \_\_\_\_\_
2. I wanted to see where \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I didn't know much about Australia.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I was surprised.
5. I always try my best because \_\_\_\_\_



Dependent clauses give more information about the independent clauses they are connected to. Match each independent clause on the left with a dependent clause on the right.



- Edith Cowan helped women in Australia before I visited Thailand.
- My dog could not remember because it is under construction.
- I'd never tried Thai food after she trained for many years.
- Layne won the surfing championship when she ran for parliament.
- No one can enter the building where she buried her bone.



A student has written a short passage but has misused some clauses. Cross out the clauses that are used incorrectly and rewrite them on the lines below.

I had a toothache. Before I went to the dentist. I did not know where her office was located. I found the office. After I looked at the map. When I got there, I told the dentist what was wrong. My dentist said I had a cavity because I had not been flossing. I felt better. After my cavity was filled.

# Prepositions of Time

Prepositions of time are prepositions used to tell when something happens. These prepositions can tell the specific time, season, day of the week, or date that something takes place. Let's review some prepositions of time.

in	used to refer to the month, season, year, or century that something took place; it can also refer to general times of day or longer periods of time	in December in the summer in the 21st century in the morning in the future
on	used to talk about a certain day of the week, a specific date, or a specific day	on Tuesday on June 21 on Valentine's Day
at	used to talk about clock times, a specific event, or a specific time frame	at 3:30 at the assembly at night



Read the sentences. Circle the preposition of time that completes the sentence.

1. Noah will be visiting Australia \_\_\_\_\_ November
2. Charlotte will go to a math tutor \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday.
3. The movie will begin \_\_\_\_\_ 7:30 p.m.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the past, people did not rely on technology.
5. He is always very tired \_\_\_\_\_ night.

a. in   b. on   c. at  
a. in   b. on   c. at



Ask your partner the following questions. Then, write their answers using prepositions of time.

When is your birthday? \_\_\_\_\_

When do you brush your teeth? \_\_\_\_\_

In which season do you most like to be outside? \_\_\_\_\_

What time do you eat lunch? \_\_\_\_\_

## Let's see some more prepositions of time.

Examples:

by

used to talk about an event that will happen before a specific time

I must complete the assignment **by** Tuesday.

until

used to talk about a continuous event that will stop at a certain point in the future

I will study with you **until** I have to go to practice.

since

used to talk about an event in the past until now

I have been a singer **since** I was young.

ago

used to talk about an event that was finished in the past

I finished dinner two hours **ago**.



Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition.

1. The child needs to be in bed                    8:00.
2. She graduated from college three years                   .
3. I have known my best friend                    preschool.
4. I practiced violin                    midnight.
5. The homework needs to be completed                    tomorrow morning.



## Self-Assessment

How comfortable do you feel with using prepositions of time? Circle the box that shows your comfort level.

1. I don't feel comfortable using prepositions of time yet.

2. I usually feel comfortable using prepositions of time.

3. I feel completely comfortable using prepositions of time.