

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

An **independent clause** expresses a complete thought. This type of clause may be a complete sentence, or it may be part of a sentence.

**Examples:** *Not much was left but dust.*  
*When the rains stopped coming and the soil blew away, not much was left but dust.*

A **dependent clause** does not express a complete thought. It must be part of a sentence and cannot **stand alone**. A dependent clause by itself is called a **fragment**.

**Example:** *When the rains stopped coming and the soil blew away*

The following words often begin a dependent clause: *when, after, because, before, if, and although.*

- ① Identify each of the following clauses as independent (I) or dependent (D).

1. when Mr. Jones yelled
2. my aunt enjoys the opera
3. unless it comes today
4. although I lost the library book
5. they're going on a picnic
6. mom found her keys in the drawer
7. when the movie is over
8. we're planning to have a party



2 Circle the dependent clause and underline the independent clause.

1. After the storm passed, we played in the puddle.
2. The plants dried out before the rain came.
3. When lightning strikes, we must go inside.
4. Get to higher ground before the flood comes.
5. If you hear thunder, it will probably rain.
6. Although a great deal of rain fell, the storm moved on quickly.
7. We will go outside after the sun comes out.
8. Before the dust storm came, we heard the wind howling.
9. The rain may turn to snow when the temperature drops.
10. Because the land was so dry, we could not dig holes.

3 Match the independent clauses to the correct dependent clauses.

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| 1. Stacy has lived in 10 different countries | a. when he makes that silly face.            |
| 2. When I finish my homework                 | b. you should take the advanced math course. |
| 3. Billy does not like tomatoes              | c. because she wants to be a detective.      |
| 4. I can't stop laughing                     | d. even though he eats them on burgers.      |
| 5. If you think it will help you             | e. because her dad is in the army.           |
| 6. Sandy likes to read mysteries             | f. I'll study for my exam.                   |