

Dependent & Independent Clauses

Clauses that can stand on their own as a sentence are called **independent clauses**. Clauses that are *not* complete sentences are called **dependent clauses**. They must be used in a sentence with an independent clause.

Note: “who” and “which” can be used as question words or as relative pronouns. They can be used at the start of an independent clause when that clause is a question (“*Who got the job?*”). When “who” and “which” are used as relative pronouns, they introduce dependent clauses (“The woman *who got the job* has a lot of experience.”)

A. Choose “independent” for the clause if it can stand alone as a complete sentence. Choose “dependent” if the clause depends on another clause to make sense.

1. The dog barked loudly
2. Who lives in that house
3. I found my keys under the couch
4. That she bought yesterday
5. The man fixed the heater
6. Which was broken for two weeks
7. I enjoy books about history
8. Who speaks five languages
9. That made everyone laugh
10. The children played outside

B. Type or write the dependent clause in each of the following sentences.

Example: The teacher who helped me was very kind.

who helped me

1. The woman who lives next door is a doctor.

2. I saw a movie that was really funny last night.

3. The book, which I borrowed from the library, is due tomorrow.

4. He met a girl who speaks three languages.

5. The cake that she baked yesterday was delicious.

6. My friend, who plays the guitar very well, is coming to visit.

7. This apartment, which is closer to work, is not as nice.

8. They bought a car that has low mileage.

9. The man who fixed our sink charged too much.

10. She wore a dress that matched her shoes perfectly.
