

Name: _____

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. _____

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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.

