Independent and Subordinate Clauses

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate.

Reminder: the predicate is the action in the sentence (the verb) and the subject is the thing or person doing the action (noun or pronoun).

Clauses come in two forms: independent and subordinate.

An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence because it expresses a complete thought.

Example:

She read the book that her father had bought her.

This clause has a subject (**she**) and it has a predicate (**read the book**). It can be its own sentence. Therefore, it is an independent clause.

A subordinate clause has a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone as its own sentence.

Example:

that her father had bought her

This clause has a subject (**that her father**) and it has a predicate (**had bought her**). However, it does not make sense alone. It needs to be linked to an independent clause to make a sentence.

A. Write the whole independent clause found in each sentence on the line below.

Do not include any punctuation.

1. My mother arrived early to the party, just as she always does.

   _____

2. We had the best seats in the house, but they were not worth the money.

   _____

3. While we were swimming, you got your foot tangled in seaweed.

   _____

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4. Although it was raining, I was happy to be outside.

_____

5. The athletes shook hands respectfully even though they had lost.

_____

6. After you make supper, someone has to wash the dishes.

_____

B. Write the whole subordinate clause found in each sentence on the line below. Do not include any punctuation.

1. Montreal is a city that has a subway system.

_____

2. When I went to sleep, there was still daylight.

_____

3. I always pack a lunch for school because it is the healthier option.

_____

4. I love Greek myths because my mother always read them to me before bed.

_____

5. When the show was over, the actors came and took a bow onstage.

_____

6. On the day it was released, I bought a copy of the sixth Harry Potter book.

_____

C. Tell me if the clause in **bold** is an independent clause or a subordinate clause. Write independent clause or subordinate clause on the line under the sentence.

1. One of my plants died **while the other two lived**.

_____

2. **Ariel walked along the shore** until she found Eric.

_____

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3. By the time I got out of bed, **it was past seven o'clock**.

   _____

4. **I ran out of tissues again** because my students didn't bring any at the beginning of the year.

   _____

5. My brother always makes pasta for dinner **when I come over**.

   _____

6. Hugo went shopping **because he needed some new clothes**.

   _____

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