GrammarTrack

INTERMEDIATE PDF WORKSHEET

Dependent and independent clauses worksheet with answers (PDF)



with answer key

Practice independent and dependent clauses: tell clauses from phrases, choose the right linking word, name the sentence type, join two sentences and fix comma splices and fragments. A short rule box, five exercises and an answer key on the last page. Level B1-B2.

NAME

DATE

RULE

Clauses in a nutshell

Independent clause: a subject + a verb that make a complete thought. *The shop closed.*

Dependent clause: a subject + a verb, but it starts with a word like *because, when, if, although, who, which, that* and can't stand alone. *because the owner was ill*

Phrase: no subject + verb of its own. *after lunch, because of the rain*

- Join two independent clauses with a full stop, a semicolon, or a comma + *and, but, or, so.*
- A comma alone between two independent clauses is a mistake (a comma splice).
- When a dependent clause starts the sentence, put a comma after it.

1 Clause or phrase?

Is it an independent clause, a dependent clause or a phrase?

1 **because the tickets were sold out**

a) independent clause | b) dependent clause | c) phrase

2 **the tickets were sold out**

a) independent clause | b) dependent clause | c) phrase

3 during the summer holidays

a) independent clause | b) dependent clause | c) phrase

4 whose dog barks all night

a) independent clause | b) dependent clause | c) phrase

5 we have never met

a) independent clause | b) dependent clause | c) phrase

6 to save some money

a) independent clause | b) dependent clause | c) phrase

2 Start the dependent clause

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Use each word once.

WORD BANK

although | because | until | unless | who | that

1 I won't sign it _____ I read it carefully.

2 _____ he was tired, he kept working.

3 The woman _____ called you is my aunt.

4 We stayed inside _____ it was too cold.

5 You'll miss the train _____ you leave now.

6 I think _____ you're right.

3 What type of sentence?

Choose the sentence type.

1 She sings and plays the guitar.

a) simple | b) compound | c) complex | d) compound-complex

2 She sings, and her brother plays the guitar.

a) simple b) compound c) complex d) compound-complex

3 She sings when she is happy.

a) simple b) compound c) complex d) compound-complex

4 She sings when she is happy, but she never sings in public.

a) simple b) compound c) complex d) compound-complex

5 The bus was late, so we took a taxi.

a) simple b) compound c) complex d) compound-complex

6 Before the bus came, we bought coffee.

a) simple b) compound c) complex d) compound-complex

4 Join the sentences

Join the two sentences with the word in brackets. Add a comma where you need one.

1 It started to rain. We went inside. (so)

2 I called him. He didn't answer. (but)

3 She was ill. She went to work. (although)

4 I have a friend. She speaks five languages. (who)

5 We'll start dinner. Dad gets home. (when)

6 **The museum was closed. We went to the park. (because)**

5 Fix the mistake

Each sentence has a mistake with clauses. Write it correctly.

1 **I was hungry, I made a sandwich.**

2 **We stayed at home. Because it was snowing.**

3 **The flat is small, however it is cheap.**

4 **Despite it was late, they kept talking.**

5 **I'll call you when I will arrive.**

6 **My mother which is a nurse works at night.**

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Answer key

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1

1 b) dependent clause
2 a) independent clause
3 c) phrase
4 b) dependent clause
5 a) independent clause
6 c) phrase

2

1 until
2 Although
3 who
4 because
5 unless
6 that

3

1 a) simple
2 b) compound
3 c) complex
4 d) compound-complex
5 b) compound
6 c) complex

4

1 It started to rain, so we went inside.
2 I called him, but he didn't answer.
3 Although she was ill, she went to work. / She went to work although she was ill.
4 I have a friend who speaks five languages.
5 We'll start dinner when Dad gets home. / When Dad gets home, we'll start dinner.
6 Because the museum was closed, we went to the park. / We went to the park because the museum was closed.

5

1 I was hungry, so I made a sandwich. / I was hungry; I made a sandwich.
2 We stayed at home because it was snowing.
3 The flat is small; however, it is cheap. / The flat is small, but it is cheap.
4 Although it was late, they kept talking. / Despite the late hour, they kept talking.
5 I'll call you when I arrive.
6 My mother, who is a nurse, works at night.