



Independent vs. Dependent

Is it a complete thought?



An independent clause

has a subject and a verb, but is an **complete thought.**

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A dependent clause

has a subject and a verb, but is an **incomplete thought.**

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Dependent clauses also often use special words that show they have a relationship with the rest of the sentence.

For example - after, because, before, if, since, though, unless, when, whenever, where, which, that

**Is the thought complete? Do we want to
know more?**





Examples

Independent clauses

The test was surprisingly easy.

(We know what happened with the test.)

My post got a thousand likes.

(We know what happened with the post.)

The principal cancelled finals.

(We know what the principal did.)

The cafeteria served mystery meat.

(We know what the cafeteria served.)

Dependent clauses

While scrolling through Instagram

(What happened while scrolling?)

Until the bell finally rings

(What is happening?)

Whenever my crush walks by

(What do you do?)

Kept on walking.

(Who kept on walking?)



Let's try: Independent or Dependent?

Because the power went out

The fire alarm interrupted the quiz

A new student joined our class



My friends and I won the Roblox
championship

If you want to sit with us in the cafeteria

When my friend got left on read

