Lesson 3

Dependent and Independent Clauses

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify dependent clauses and independent clauses.
- Write complex sentences by combining dependent and independent clauses.

Writing Tip

Writing is usually more interesting when you vary your sentences. Every once in a while, try combining a dependent and an independent clause to make a complex sentence.

Teach/Model

Explain that sentences are made up of clauses.

- Define **independent clause.** *An independent clause is a group of words that has a subject and a predicate.* For example: *Juan hit the ball.* Explain that this is a complete thought that can stand on its own. It is the same as a sentence.

- Define **dependent clause.** *A dependent clause has a subject and a predicate but does not express a complete thought.* For example: *After Juan hit the ball.* Explain that this clause cannot stand on its own. It is a dependent clause.

- Define **complex sentence.** *When you combine a dependent clause with an independent clause, you have built a complex sentence. If you put the dependent clause first, use a comma to separate it from the independent clause.* For example: *After Juan hit the ball, he ran to first base.* If you put the independent clause first, you don't need a comma to separate the two clauses. For example: *Juan ran to first base after he hit the ball.*

- Write these examples on the board. Use the modeling to help students understand how to combine a dependent clause with an independent clause.
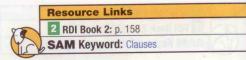
Example	Model/Think Aloud
The rock concert was sold out.	*This is an independent clause. It states a complete thought. It contains a subject and a predicate. It is called a simple sentence.*
Because the tickets were cheap.	*This is a dependent clause. Although it contains a subject (tickets) and a predicate (were cheap), it is not a complete thought. It needs more information to be complete.*
Dependent Clause First Because the tickets were cheap, the rock concert was sold out. **Dependent Clause Last** The rock concert was sold out because the tickets were cheap.	*Both of these sentences are complete. The dependent clause and the independent clause are combined to make complex sentences. If the dependent clause comes first, a comma goes between the clauses. If the independent clause comes first, no comma is needed.*

Guided Practice/Apply

Write the following clauses on the board. Have students work in pairs to identify them as *independent* or *dependent* and tell why they made their decision. Have students add an independent clause to each dependent clause to build a complete sentence.

1. Where the candy was. *(dependent clause; sentences will vary)*

2. We never gave the other team a chance. *(independent clause)*

3. Before I won the contest. *(dependent clause; sentences will vary)*

4. Will you help me clean up my room? *(independent clause)*

Assign **Practice, page 159.** Have students check their recent writing and correct any dependent clauses that are standing alone.

Resource Links
2 RDI Book 2: p. 158
SAM Keyword: Clauses

Name _____

Dependent and Independent Clauses

In each complex sentence, underline the independent clause once and the dependent clause twice.

- •An **independent clause** is another name for a simple sentence.
- •A **dependent clause** also has a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone as a sentence because it does not express a complete thought.
- •A **complex sentence** has an independent clause and a dependent clause.

1. When our town built a new playground, people of all ages helped.

2. Before a group of adults planned the playground, they asked kids for suggestions.

3. Although older kids wanted a basketball court, younger ones wanted swings.

4. Workers tore up the old playground after a plan was approved.

5. While the adults planted grass, some teenagers painted murals.

6. After the playground was finished, everyone had a big party.

Write a complex sentence using each dependent clause. Remember to add a comma where necessary.

7. after I finished eating dinner

_____

8. when I visit the library

_____

9. because I like nature

_____

10. although I like pizza

_____

Use with page 158.