

Review: Independent and Dependent Clauses

To be grammatically complete, sentences that are not commands must be what are called **independent clauses**. You can think of “independent clause” as shorthand for “can stand on its own as a complete sentence.” **Dependent clauses**, on the other hand, add on to independent clauses, but cannot stand as complete sentences on their own. Every independent clause needs a subject and a predicate, and every dependent clause needs one or the other, but not both.

A dependent clause sitting by itself is not grammatically correct; it structurally “depends” on being linked to an independent clause.

X Which are poisonous and found in tropical waters.

Dependent Clause

X Because they are part of the phylum Cnidaria.

Dependent Clause

X If you see a jellyfish in the wild.

Dependent Clause

Complex sentences include at least one dependent clause.

My favorite sea creature is the jellyfish, which is a type of invertebrate organism.

Independent Clause

Dependent Clause

Invertebrate organisms are so named because they don't have spines.

Independent Clause

Dependent Clause

If you want to learn about jellyfish, I recommend going to the aquarium, as you can see some there.

Dependent Clause

Independent Clause

Dependent Clause

Compound sentences include multiple independent clauses properly linked together.

Invertebrate organisms don't have spines; however, that doesn't mean that they scare easily.

Independent Clause

Independent Clause

Some invertebrates protect themselves by living in shells, and they move to larger shells as they grow.

Independent Clause

Independent Clause

Some people think invertebrates are boring, but I think they're fascinating.

Independent Clause

Independent Clause

