



Clauses

What is a clause?

- ▶ A clause is made up of other smaller sentence parts.
 - ▶ A clause must have *at least* a subject and a verb.
 - ▶ “I am” is a clause (I=subject; am=verb).
 - ▶ There are two basic types of clauses: independent clauses and subordinate clauses
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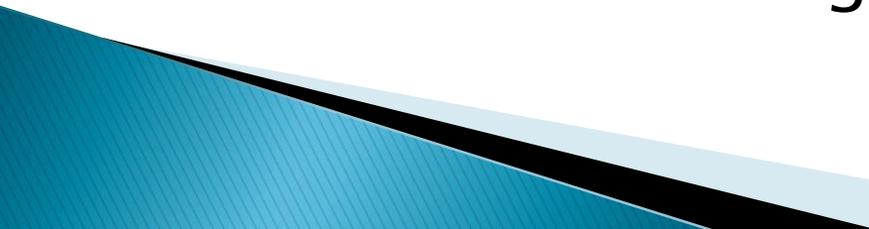
Independent Clauses

- ▶ An independent clause can usually stand on its own as a sentence
 - Think about what it means if you are “independent” and you’ll understand what makes an independent clause what it is
- ▶ Examples (identify the subject and verb in each)
 - The students waited patiently for summer to arrive.
 - Zombies ate my neighbors.
 - The grammar party got wild.

Independent Clauses

- ▶ You can also combine two or more independent clauses to form more advanced sentences (they're still independent clauses)
 - The grammar party got wild, but the students still waited patiently for summer to arrive.
- ▶ **NOTE** that if you try to combine two independent clauses *without* adding a comma, conjunction, or other connection, you make a grammar error that we call a run-on sentence.
 - The grammar party got wild the students still waited patiently for summer to arrive (**run-on**).

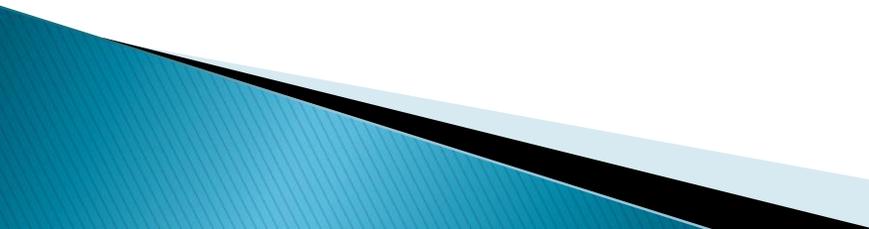
Try it!

- ▶ Write an independent clause.
 - ▶ Now add another independent clause to the first one by using a comma and conjunction, semicolon, or other connection.
 - ▶ I went to the PPL Center for the first time.
 - ▶ I went to the PPL Center for the first time, and I saw a Phantoms game.
 - ▶ **Not:** I went to the PPL Center for the first time I saw a Phantoms game. (**run-on**)
 - ▶ **Not** I went to the PPL Center for the first time, I saw a Phantoms game. (**comma splice**)
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Subordinate Clauses

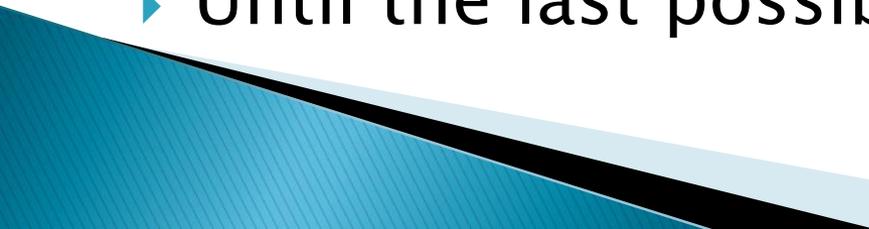
- ▶ A subordinate clause **cannot** stand on its own as a sentence. It is also known as a “dependent clause.”
 - Think about what it means if you’re “dependent” on someone else and you’ll understand part of what makes a subordinate (or dependent) clause different from an independent clause.
- ▶ Dependent clauses **start with relative pronouns** (that, which, who, whom, whose) **or subordinating conjunctions** (after, since, before, while, because, although, etc.)
 - See your DGP notes for **relative pronouns** and **subordinating conjunctions**

Subordinate Clauses

- ▶ Examples (identify the subject and verb in each; identify relative pronoun or subordinating conjunction)
 - ▶ **That** the Civil Rights Movement was one of the most important time periods in American History.
 - ▶ **Who** was one of the most important leaders in American Civil Rights.
 - ▶ **Because** the work that leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. started is still not done.
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Call it!

Independent, Subordinate, or neither?

- ▶ Determine whether each of the following clauses is independent, subordinate, or not a clause at all.
 - ▶ They do not believe
 - ▶ That anyone could travel faster than the speed of light
 - ▶ When I stay in bed in the morning
 - ▶ My parents yell at me
 - ▶ I don't leave for school
 - ▶ Until the last possible minute
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Types of Subordinate Clauses

▶ Adverb Clause

- ▶ Usually starts with subordinating conjunction
- ▶ Acts like an adverb
 - *Where? When? To what extent? How?*
 - Modifies a verb, adj., or other adverb
- ▶ We will eat when the bell rings.

▶ Adjective Clause

- ▶ Usually starts with relative pronoun
- ▶ Acts like an adjective
 - *What kind? Which one? How many?*
 - Modifies a noun or pronoun
- ▶ She likes the guy who sits in front of her.

Types of Subordinate Clauses

- ▶ **Noun Clause**
- ▶ Usually starts with a relative pronoun
- ▶ Acts like a noun (subject, object, gerund)
- ▶ I hope that you understand the examples
 - Acts as direct object here