

Lesson
1

What Is a Clause?

Teaching

A **clause** is a group of words that contains both a subject and a verb. There are two kinds of clauses, independent and dependent.

An **independent clause** expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. An independent clause is also called a **main clause**.

We all want bargains:

SUBJECT VERB

A **dependent clause** may contain a subject and a verb, but it does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence. Another name for a dependent clause is a **subordinate clause**. Dependent clauses are often introduced by words such as *because, when, if, while, or that*.

when we buy things

SUBJECT VERB

A dependent clause can be joined to an independent clause to express a complete thought.

We all want bargains when we buy things.

Identifying Independent and Dependent Clauses

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **IND** for independent clause and **DEP** for dependent clause.

1. Anyone with a checking account keeps track of the checks **that he or she writes**. _____
2. **Your check register is a record of your checks and their amounts**. _____
3. Veronica, **who is a very organized person**, keeps good financial records. _____
4. If you don't keep track of your funds, **you might write a bad check**. _____
5. A bad check is called bad **because there is no money in your account to pay it**. _____
6. **An orderly register tells the exact amount of money in your account**. _____
7. **If you have little or no money left**, you cannot write any more checks. _____
8. A bank charges an extra fee **whenever your funds won't cover your checks**. _____
9. **Each month, the bank sends you a statement** that shows what came into or went out of the account. _____
10. Every bank has its own rules about **what fees it charges**. _____
11. A checking account **that has a certain amount of money in it** will earn interest. _____
12. Before Andrew opened his checking account, **he asked about the bank's fees**. _____

Compound-Complex Sentences

More Practice

A. Identifying Clauses

In each compound-complex sentence below, draw parentheses around each independent clause and underline each dependent clause.

1. A tourist attraction that also has practical importance is the Panama Canal; both cruise ships and freighters pass through it daily.
2. Is the Sears Tower in Chicago still the tallest building in the world, or have any buildings that have gone up recently taken that honor?
3. When the last tsar of Russia was arrested by revolutionaries, he and his family were hiding at a palace near St. Petersburg; now that palace is open to tourists.
4. Mount Fuji in Japan has become so popular with tourists that crowding has become a real problem, but I would still like to travel there.
5. You can take a large cruise ship to see the glaciers of Alaska, or you can ride a smaller boat that can go closer to the coast and its icy covering.
6. I'd like to see the North Pole, but I will never go where it is that cold!

B. Identifying Kinds of Sentences

Identify each sentence below with **S** for simple, **CD** for compound, **CX** for complex, or **CD-CX** for compound-complex.

1. My aunt has joined an investment club that investigates and buys stocks, and she has made a little profit already. _____
2. The Great Barrier Reef forms a natural breakwater for the coast of northeast Australia and attracts tourists from all over the world. _____
3. Just thinking is not enough; you must think of something. _____
4. We had gone only a little way into the cave before our flashlight went out. _____
5. Although snow was predicted, the temperature has stayed above freezing, so rain is falling instead. _____
6. Is the universe expanding, or is it contracting? _____
7. After the holiday dinner is over, my brother washes dishes and I dry them. _____
8. The last car of the poky old freight train is just now coming into view. _____
9. Everyone who saw the movie has liked it, so I'm going tonight. _____
10. We tried hard, but the job was harder than we expected. _____