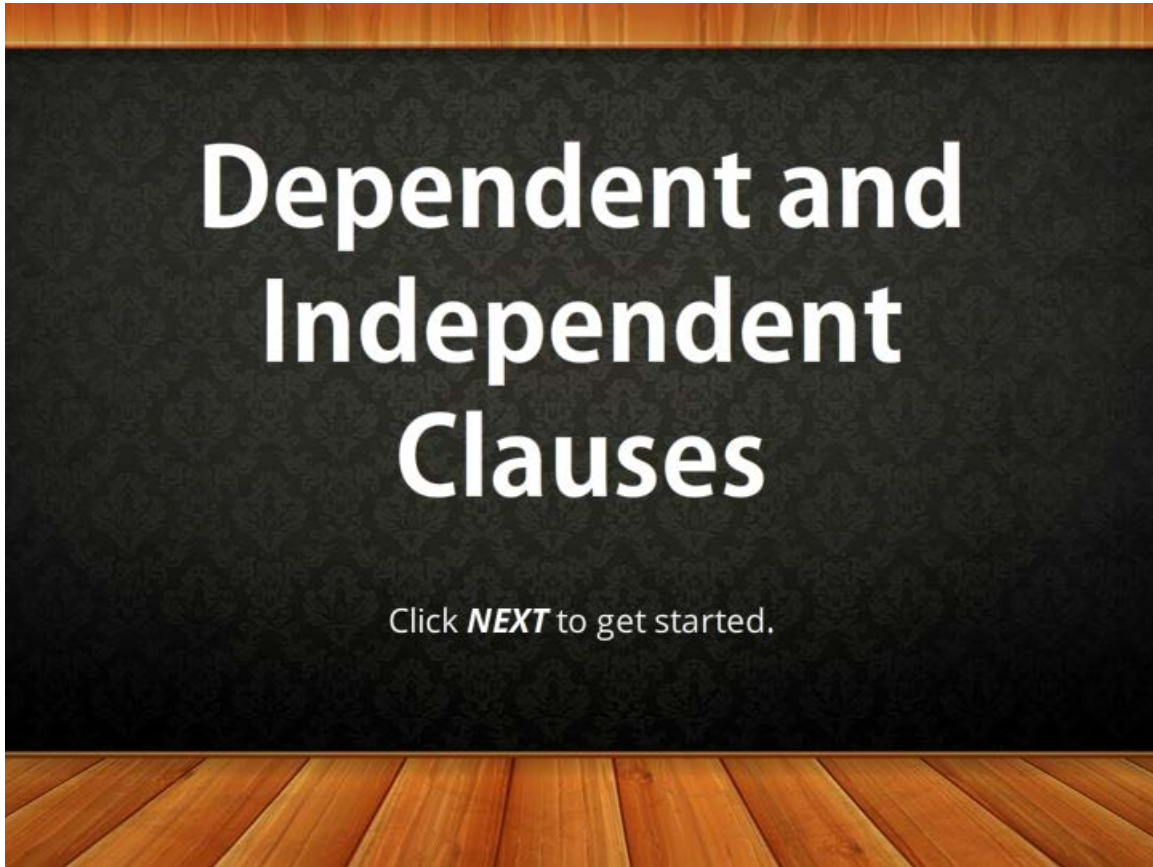


Module 7: The Epic – The *Odyssey*
Topic 6 Content: Dependent and Independent Clauses

Introduction



Click *NEXT* to get started.

Module 7: The Epic – The *Odyssey*
Topic 6 Content: Dependent and Independent Clauses

What Is a Clause? and Identifying Subjects

The graphic features a dark grey background with a white oval at the top containing the word "Clause". Below the oval are two grey buttons labeled "Subject" and "Verb". Underneath these are three examples of clauses: "when the dog barked", "that she tasted", and "the day was sunny". At the bottom, a light grey box contains the instruction: "Click the subjects in the examples of clauses. Then, click **NEXT** to see if you are correct."

A clause is a group of words that contains both a subject and a verb. Can you identify the subjects and verbs in the examples of clauses shown here?

when the dog barked
that she tasted
the day was sunny

Click the subjects in the examples of clauses. Then, click **NEXT** to see if you are correct.

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Subject Answers

Clause

Subject Verb

when the dog barked

that she tasted

the day was sunny

Click **NEXT** to continue.

Did your answers match what is shown here? Click **NEXT** to continue.

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Identifying Verbs

The interface features a dark grey background with a wooden floor texture at the top and bottom. At the top center, the word "Clause" is written in white and enclosed in a white oval. Below this, two grey buttons labeled "Subject" and "Verb" are positioned. Three examples of clauses are listed in white text: "when the dog barked", "that she tasted", and "the day was sunny". At the bottom, a white instruction box contains the text: "Click on each of the verbs in the examples of clauses. Then, click **NEXT** to see if you are correct."

Click on each of the verbs in the examples of clauses. Then, click **NEXT** to see if you are correct.

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Verb Answers

Clause

Subject Verb

when the dog barked

that she tasted

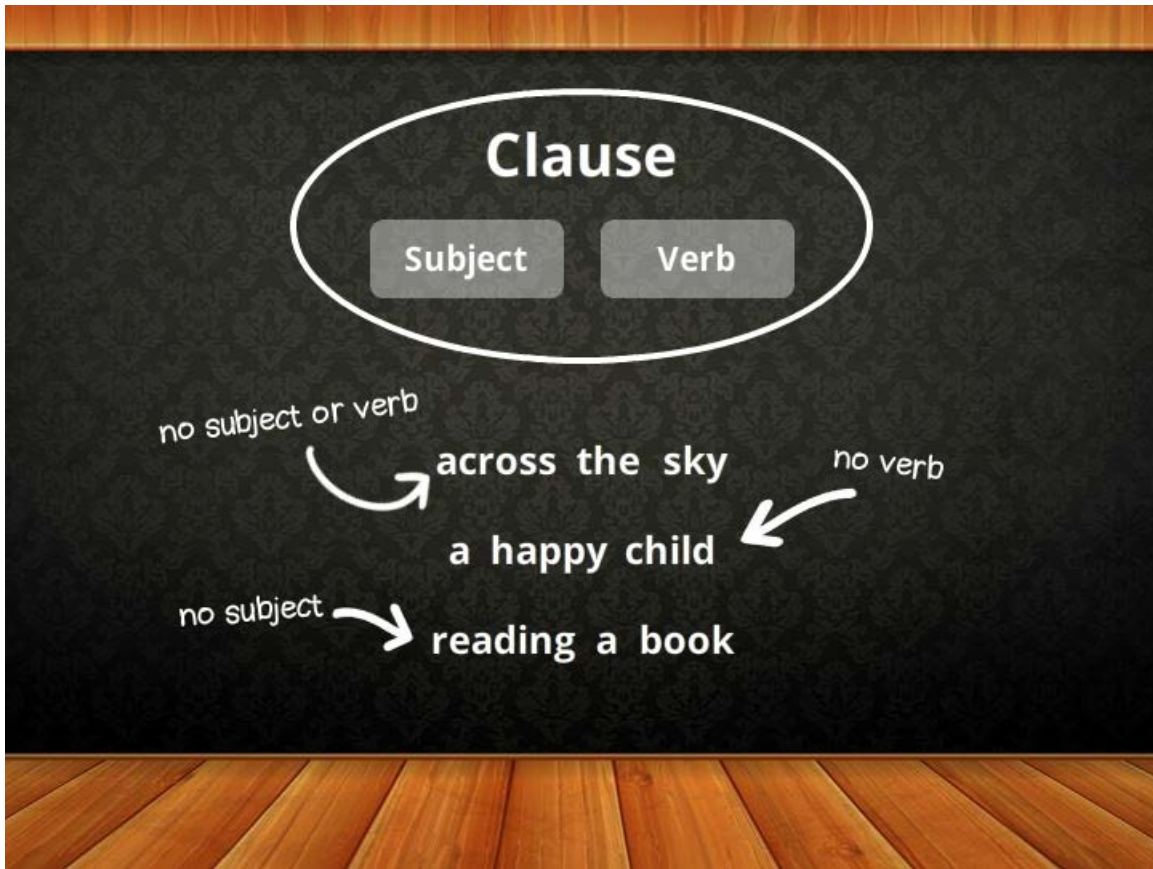
the day was sunny

Click **NEXT** to continue.

Did your answers match what is shown here? Click **NEXT** to continue.

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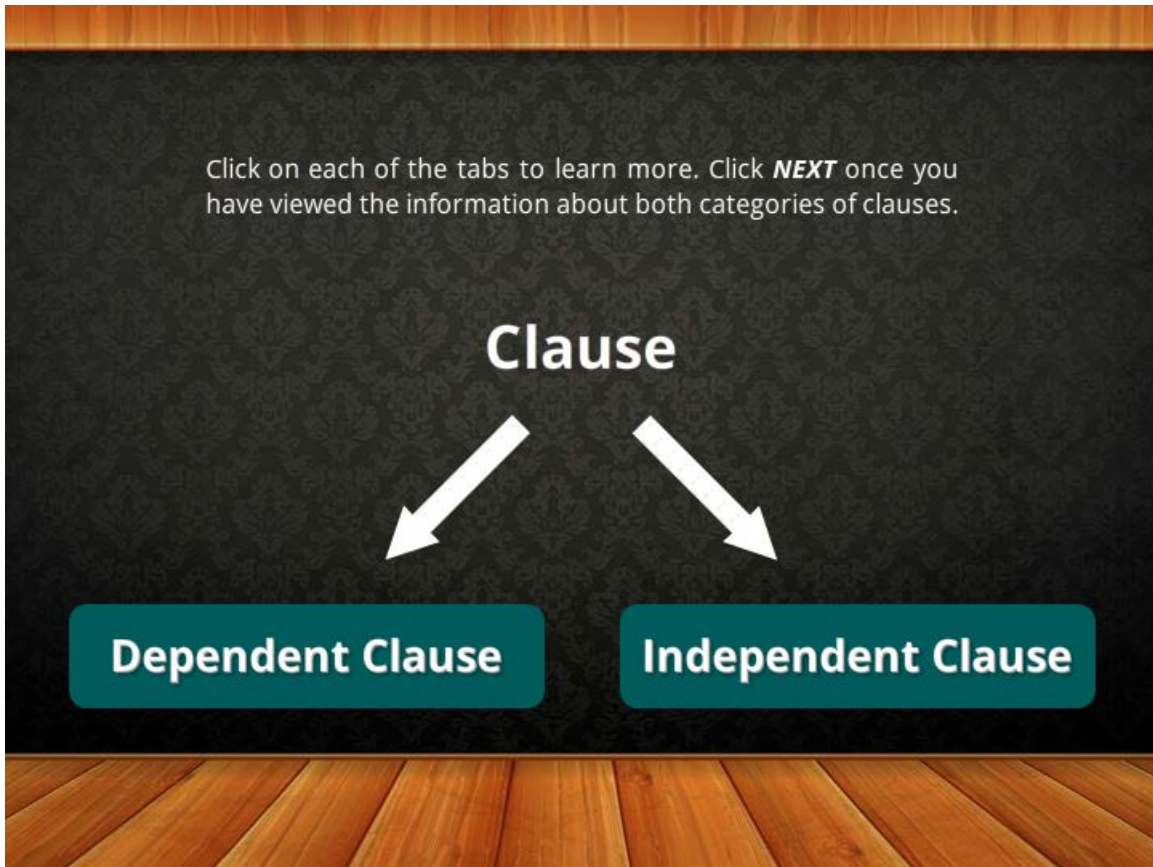
Clauses Versus Phrases



Now, notice how the phrases shown here are not clauses because they lack subjects, verbs, or even both.

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Two Types of Clauses: Dependent and Independent



All clauses can be categorized as either a dependent clause or an independent clause. Click on each of the tabs to learn more. Click **NEXT** once you have viewed the information about both categories of clauses.

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Dependent Clauses

Dependent Clauses

A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

when the dog barked

The birds flew away when the dog barked.

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A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, even though it has a subject and a verb. For example, the dependent clause *when the dog barked* is not a complete sentence. What happened when the dog barked? This clause is only a fragment of a complete thought. You would have to add more information to this clause in order to form a complete sentence, such as: *The birds flew away when the dog barked.*

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Independent Clauses

Independent Clauses

An independent clause can stand alone as a complete sentence.

the day was sunny

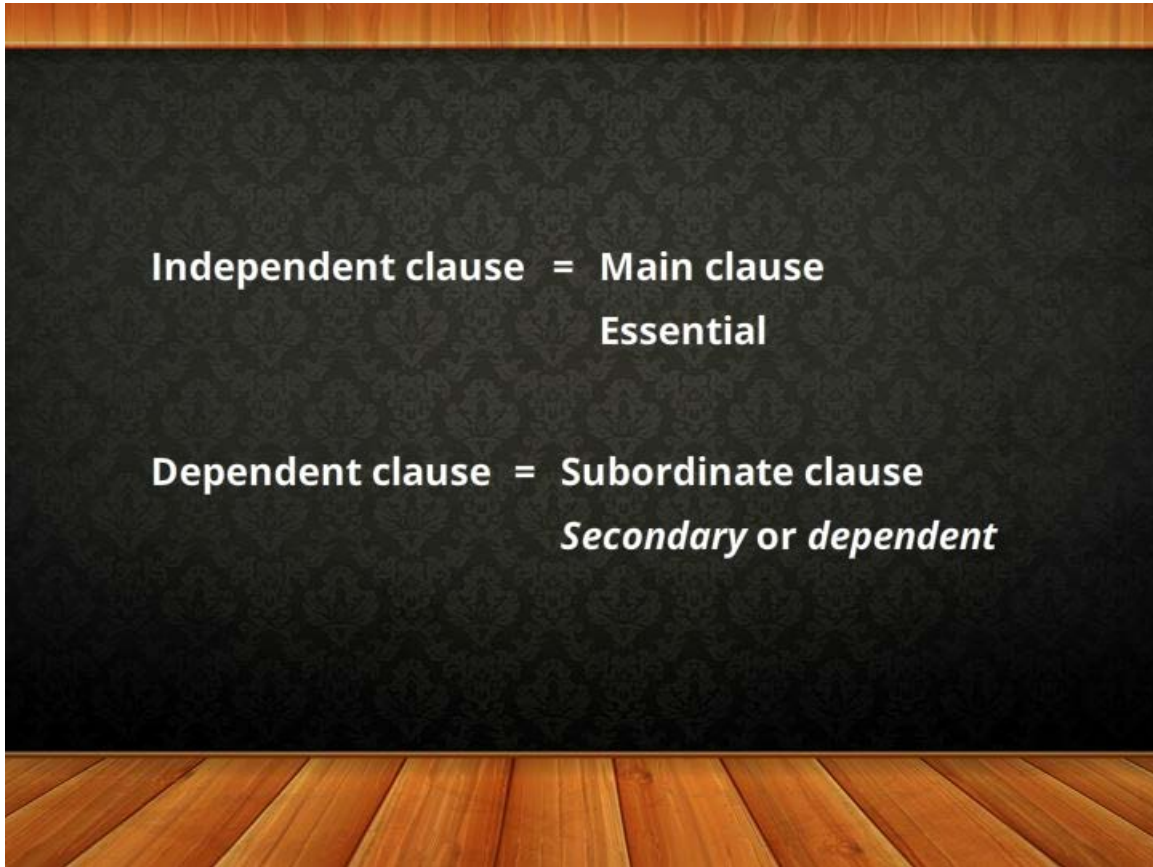
The day was sunny, so we went to the beach.

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An independent clause can stand alone as a complete sentence. For example, *the day was sunny* is an independent clause because it can serve as a complete sentence. Optionally, you can embed this clause into a more complex sentence by adding more information, as in: *The day was sunny, so we went to the beach*. However, *the day was sunny* is already a complete thought, so it qualifies as an independent clause.

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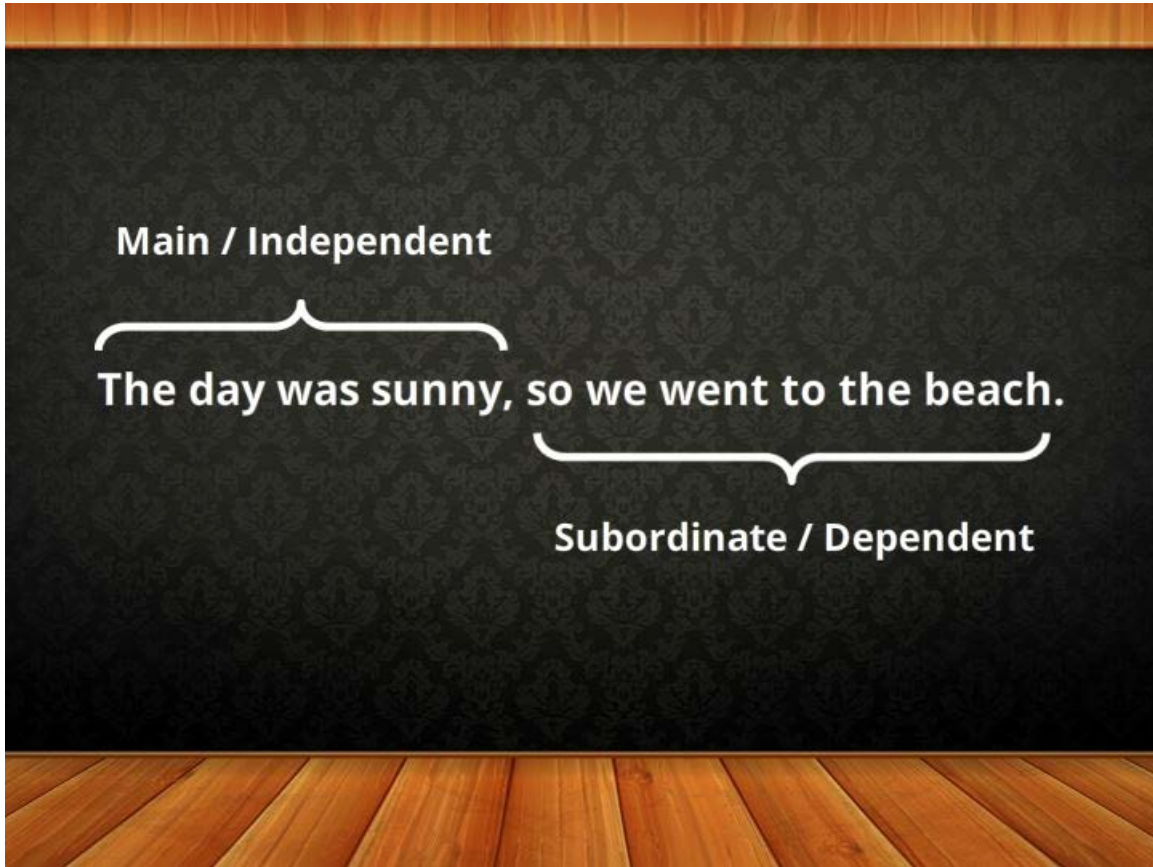
Other Names for Clauses



Independent clauses are sometimes referred to as main clauses. Because they can stand on their own, main clauses are essential to the structure of a sentence. Dependent clauses are also known as subordinate clauses. The word *subordinate* is a synonym for *secondary* or *dependent*.

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Main and Subordinate Clauses in the Same Sentence



In the sentence *The day was sunny, so we went to the beach*, the main, or independent, clause is *the day was sunny*, and the subordinate, or dependent, clause is *so we went to the beach*.