

Name _____

Independent and Dependent Clauses

A related group of words with a subject and a predicate is called a **clause**. A clause that makes sense by itself is an **independent clause**. A clause that does not make sense by itself is a **dependent clause**. A **complex sentence** contains an independent and a dependent clause.

Independent Clause They came to the island in canoes.

Dependent Clause even though it was a long trip

If the dependent clause comes first, set it off with a comma: *Until they were attacked, Native Americans lived on the island.* If the independent clause is first, no comma is needed. *Native Americans lived on the island until they were attacked.*

Directions Write *I* if the underlined group of words is an independent clause. Write *D* if it is a dependent clause.

1. If you live on an island, you become independent. _____
2. Natives made their own clothes because they could not buy them. _____
3. Since there were no stores, they hunted for food. _____
4. A seal provided meat while people used its hide for clothes. _____
5. A hunting party paddled boats out to sea so that they could catch fish. _____
6. Women gathered berries and roots before winter came. _____
7. Because they needed containers for the food, they made baskets out of grasses. _____

Directions Underline the dependent clause in each sentence.

8. Because they cooked with fire, the natives kept live coals.
9. After food was prepared, they covered the embers with ashes.
10. While they slept through the night, the coals stayed warm.
11. The coals smoldered until morning came.
12. When the cook blew on the coals, they glowed brightly.
13. She fed wood to the coals so that the fire would catch again.
14. If her husband had caught fish that morning, they would eat well for breakfast.



Home Activity Your child learned about independent and dependent clauses. Ask your child to write a sentence about Native Americans using an independent clause and a dependent clause and explain the difference between the two.

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Independent and Dependent Clauses

Directions Add an independent clause to each dependent clause to create a sentence that makes sense. Write the sentence.

1. because the natives depended on the sea for food

2. so that they could make a boat

3. after the tree was cut down

4. when the ashes were scraped out

5. since the boat was made by digging out wood

6. so that they would be watertight

7. because the boats were so well made



Home Activity Your child learned how to write sentences that combine an independent and a dependent clause. With your child, read an article about Native Americans. Have your child look for sentences that have both kinds of clauses.

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Independent and Dependent Clauses

Directions Mark the letter of the sentence that contains both an independent clause and a dependent clause.

- A** Natives used different kinds of natural materials as tools.
B A sharp-edged rock could serve as a knife.
C Hot rocks were placed into the fire.
D When they got hot, they acted like an oven.
- A** Bones of some animals became tools too.
B Because bone is so hard, it can pass through leather.
C A long, thin piece of bone with a sharp end served as a needle.
D A large bone could serve as a club or even a ladle.
- A** Bones were also used as decoration.
B Artists might carve bone if the weather was bad.
C A knife of stone could slice into the bone.
D Some were cut into interesting shapes.
- A** Hides of animals provided clothing.
B The hide was scraped long and hard.
C Deerskin made soft, warm clothing after it was tanned.
D Tougher parts of the deerskin were suitable for moccasins.
- A** Natives on the seacoast gathered beautiful shells.
B Some colors and types of shells were especially valuable.
C These shells were used as a form of money for trade.
D Until white people arrived, gold and silver coins were unknown.
- A** The natives respected all forms of life.
B They depended on animals for food and clothing.
C They used every part of the animal so that nothing was wasted.
D Animals always appeared in Native American tales and myths.
- A** The coyote was respected because it was intelligent.
B It could be a competitor for small game and berries.
C Coyotes and humans are omnivores.
D They eat both animals and plants.
- A** The bison was the mainstay of life on the Great Plains.
B These huge beasts covered the plains until the late 1800s.
C White hunters killed bison for sport or for their tongues.
D Although most of the bison were killed, the species survived.



Home Activity Your child prepared for taking tests on independent and dependent clauses. Say a dependent clause (*after we eat dinner, before we leave home, when we go to the store*). Have your child add an independent clause to make a sentence.

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Independent and Dependent Clauses

Directions Write *I* after each independent clause. Write *D* after each dependent clause.

1. some Native Americans built homes of wood _____
2. where they lived year-round _____
3. others made tipis of skins and poles _____
4. so that they could move their homes _____
5. the cone-shaped tipi was useful _____
6. because it was efficient and portable _____
7. when the herd moved on _____
8. the tipis were quickly taken down _____
9. the natives followed the bison _____
10. until the herd reached new grazing land _____

Directions: Write sentences combining each pair of clauses in the first exercise. Use correct capitalization and punctuation.

11. (Clauses 1 and 2) _____

12. (Clauses 3 and 4) _____

13. (Clauses 5 and 6) _____

14. (Clauses 7 and 8) _____

15. (Clauses 9 and 10) _____



Home Activity Your child reviewed independent clauses and dependent clauses. With your child, look through a newspaper article. Have your child find sentences with independent and dependent clauses and mark the clauses *I* and *D*.