

## Grammar 4: Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Name:

Answer Key

### A Review of Where We've Been...

We recently revisited the 2 most basic elements of sentence structure: **subject** and **verb**.

(To be a sentence, a group of words must have both subject and verb, or a subject-verb combination.)

We also reviewed the differences between **phrases** and **clauses**, and we became more familiar with four specific types of phrases: **verb** phrases, **gerund** phrases, **infinitive** phrases, and **prepositional** phrases.

### Where We're Going Next...

Now we are going to revisit the two most important types of clauses:

(1) **independent clauses** and (2) **subordinate (or dependent) clauses**.

#### TERM #1

A **clause** is a group of words that possesses both a subject and a verb

(i.e., a subject - verb combination).

#### TERM #2

An **independent clause** is a subject-verb combination that can stand alone as a sentence.

#### TERM #3

A **subordinate clause** (also known as a **dependent clause**) is a subject-verb combination that

cannot stand alone as a sentence.

**TERM #4 and KEY RULE** – All subordinate clauses begin with a subordinating conjunction!

Here is a list of subordinating conjunctions (perfect for memorizing):

after	although	as	as if	as long as	as though
because	before	even though	if	provided that	since
so that	that	though	till	unless	until
when	where	whereas	while	though	<u>whenever</u>

#### Practice 1 – Identifying Types of Clauses

Exercise: In each of the sentences below, one clause has been **written in boldface**.

Identify whether the boldfaced clause is an **independent** clause or a **subordinate** clause.

1. **When I was four years old**, I became Emperor of the Universe. sub

2. You will meet your doom **if you do not give me your trail mix!** sub

3. Because my lizard doesn't like my friends, **I never invite anyone over to my house.** ind

4. **Your project will get an F** unless you pay Robe-Dawg 1 million dollars. ind.

5. **Although my friends all like me**, they refuse to admit it at school. sub

6. Bob's parents act **as if he is the most untrustworthy son in the world.** sub

