The Independent Clause

6b. An independent (or main) clause expresses a complete thought and can stand by itself as a sentence.

EXAMPLES

Sheldon can make homemade pizzas.
Sheldon can make homemade pizzas, and he made one for me.

EXERCISE A
Underline the independent clause or clauses in each of the following sentences.

Examples

1. Sheldon made whole-wheat pizza dough, and then he spread the dough in a pan.

2. He used a nonstick pan because he wanted cleanup to be easy.

1. After he prepared the dough, Sheldon washed mushrooms, green peppers, and an onion.
2. He peeled the onion, and he chopped the vegetables into bite-size chunks.
3. The next step was sautéing the vegetables until they were tender.
4. I wanted to make myself useful, so I grated the mozzarella and Parmesan cheese.
5. Now we had two bowls of ingredients, which were the vegetables and the cheese.
6. I also opened a jar of pizza sauce, and I spread the sauce on the dough.
7. Then came the fun part!
8. Sheldon spread the vegetables evenly across the sauce, and I added the cheese on top.
9. After baking at 450° for twenty-five minutes, the pizza was ready.
10. What a delicious pizza it was!

EXERCISE B
For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word group by writing above it I for independent clause or NLI for not an independent clause.

Example

1. Since I met you, I’ve become more interested in baseball.

11. I never watched baseball games on television before meeting you.
12. We then watched games for several weekends in a row.
13. Now I understand the game much better.
14. When the game makes sense, it is suspenseful and enjoyable.
15. Since I have never played baseball, you can teach me!
The Subordinate Clause

6c. A subordinate (or dependent) clause does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

A subordinate clause must be joined with at least one independent clause to make a sentence and express a complete thought.

EXAMPLES Since I was curious about acupuncture, I looked it up in an encyclopedia. The information that I found was fascinating.

EXERCISE A Identify the underlined clause in each of the following sentences by writing above it SUB for subordinate clause or IND for independent clause.

Example 1. Acupuncture, which is my research topic, is a Chinese medical technique.

1. Although acupuncture is an ancient medical technique, it is still in use today.
2. The treatment is based on the idea that it helps bring into balance the yin and the yang.
3. Many areas of the world, including China, use this technique.
4. If you have a fear of needles, do not try acupuncture.
5. Acupuncture involves the insertion of tiny needles, which are made of metal, into the skin.
6. Since this technique uses no medication, some people may prefer it to prescription medicines.
7. For example, someone suffering mental depression might choose acupuncture over medication.
8. Other disorders that acupuncture treats are swollen joints, nosebleeds, and heart pains.
9. In China, patients who have surgery may choose acupuncture as anesthesia.
10. Until I’m braver, I won’t try acupuncture.

EXERCISE B Underline the subordinate clause in each sentence.

Example 1. I studied the philosophy of yin-yang because it emphasizes balance.

11. According to ancient belief, the yin and the yang are two forces that make up all aspects of life.
12. The symbol of the yin and yang, which is a circle with intertwining black and white teardrop shapes, is familiar to many people.
13. Since yin, the female half, represents earth and darkness, it is the black half.
14. Because the yang, the male half, represents brightness and the heavens, it is the white half.
15. In yin-yang philosophy, which values harmony and balance, the black and the white are equally important.