

Independent and Subordinate Clauses

An **independent clause** or **main clause** expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.

A **subordinate clause** or **dependent clause** does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE If you want to reduce waste, a **recycling program is a good idea.**

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE **If you want to reduce waste,** a recycling program is a good idea.

Exercise Identify the underlined clause in each of the following sentences.

Write **SUB** for subordinate clause and **IND** for dependent clause.

SUB

Example: Because our school throws away so much paper, we should start a recycling program.

SUB

1. Every day teachers throw away hundred of sheets of paper that they should be recycling.

IND

2. Since landfills are getting full, our school doesn't need to be contributing to the problem.

SUB

3. If our teachers recycled in their classrooms, it would set a good example for students.

SUB

4. Students who may never see an example of recycling at home could learn about it.

IND

5. Once these students learn to recycle, they can show their family how to do it.

SUB

6. If every student taught their family to recycle, it would reduce the waste going to landfills.

IND

7. If you model recycling in your neighborhood, more neighbors will join in and start recycling.

IND

8. Although you may only think of recycling paper, many other items can be recycled.

SUB

9. Some communities recycle glass and plastic which must be put in separate bins.

IND

10. Make sure you rinse out containers that you recycle so you won't attract bugs.

SUB

11. Ask you local waste management company if they have special bins for each kind of waste.

SUB

12. Before you know it, you will place your waste in the recycling bin without even thinking.

