

# Kinds of Clauses

*Reteaching*

A **clause** is a group of words that contains both a subject and a verb. An **independent** (or **main**) clause expresses a complete thought and forms a sentence.

The summer months bring their own sounds.

SUBJECT VERB

A **subordinate** (or **dependent**) clause contains a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence. Subordinate clauses are often introduced by such words as *if, because, even though, how, what, why, that, when, while, and since*.

when the temperature rises (What happens at this time?)

SUBJECT VERB

A subordinate clause must always be combined with, or be part of, an independent clause.

When the temperature rises, insects get noisy.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

A verbal phrase does not have a subject and is not the same as a subordinate clause.

Chattering at birds, squirrels raise a fuss. (verbal phrase)

When they are chattering at birds, squirrels raise a fuss. (subordinate clause)

## A. Identifying Subordinate Clauses and Verbal Phrases

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **SC** for a subordinate clause and **VP** for a verbal phrase.

1. Locusts are some of the noisiest insects **that live in this part of the country.** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **When locusts rub their hind legs against their wings,** they make a sound. \_\_\_\_\_
3. **To listen to locusts on a hot summer night** can be pleasant. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you heard the sound **that they make?** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Locusts are louder, **but hornets are more threatening.** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Hearing the buzz of a hornet,** I start running. \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Identifying Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **IND** for independent clause and **SUB** for subordinate clause.

1. The fans felt **that their team's victory was impressive.** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Robin planted a wide variety of flowers in her garden.** \_\_\_\_\_
3. Melanie, **who is a very cheerful person,** has many friends. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Pam arrived at the party early and stayed late, **but Frank arrived late and left early.** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Suzanne can't play basketball **because she sprained her wrist.** \_\_\_\_\_

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## More Practice

### A. Identifying Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **IND** for independent clause and **SUB** for subordinate clause.

1. During summer in each hemisphere, the number of hours of daylight increases **because that part of the earth tilts toward the sun.** \_\_\_\_\_
2. At the equator, there is not much change, **but at the poles the difference is remarkable.** \_\_\_\_\_
3. As you go farther north, **the number of daylight hours in June grows.** \_\_\_\_\_
4. However, the speed **at which summer departs also increases.** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **During summer, most teenagers have more time for the things** that they want to do. \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Because Rina wanted to earn some extra money,** she applied for a part-time job in a local hardware store. \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Rina described her previous jobs** when the interviewer asked about her sales experience. \_\_\_\_\_
8. If Rina can work at least 20 hours a week, **the owner will give her a job.** \_\_\_\_\_
9. **After she finished her interview at the hardware store,** Rina called her mother. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Rina's neighbor was the one **who suggested applying at the store.** \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Identifying Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Each sentence contains two clauses. In the blanks provided, identify each clause as independent or subordinate by writing **IND + IND, IND + SUB, or SUB + IND.**

1. The female sea turtle lays her eggs in the sand, and she selects a sunny place for the nest. \_\_\_\_\_
2. When she finds a place, she digs a hole about as deep as her hind limbs and deposits her eggs. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Several clutches can be laid, and each clutch can consist of 200 eggs. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Because the nests are carefully constructed, the whole process can take a few hours. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The incubation period varies since it depends on the temperature. \_\_\_\_\_
6. After the eggs are buried, the mother returns to the sea. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Since the mother has no interest in her eggs or hatchlings, the nests are often preyed upon by large birds and small mammals. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Although the hatchlings may reach the water, predaceous fish await to eat them. \_\_\_\_\_