

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- A **clause** is a group of words with a subject and a verb.
- An **independent clause** forms a complete thought and can be a sentence.
- A **dependent clause** is not a complete thought and cannot stand as a sentence.
- A **subordinating conjunction** connects a dependent and independent clause. Words such as *after*, *although*, *as*, *because*, *until*, *when*, and *while* are subordinating conjunctions.

Read each group of words. Write *I* beside each independent clause. Write *D* beside each dependent clause. Then rewrite each dependent clause so that it is part of a sentence. Underline the subordinating conjunction in the sentence.

1. When I go to the library. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Because I like to learn about famous people in history. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Most of my friends prefer fiction. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Although I enjoy fiction. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Until it's time to go home. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- A **complex sentence** is an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.
- **Relative pronouns** (*who, whose, whom, which, and that*) join independent and dependent clauses.
- **Relative adverbs** (*where, when, and why*) join independent and dependent clauses.

**For each sentence, write the dependent clause on the line. Circle the relative pronoun or adverb.**

1. Today I went to a movie with my sister, who loves action films. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. We went to a theater where she often goes with her friends \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. She heard about this movie from a friend whose brother loved it. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When I go to a movie with friends, we usually choose something light and funny.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. My sister and her friends like movies that are more serious and suspenseful.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. I do not know why she liked this movie. \_\_\_\_\_
7. When we go again, I will choose the movie. \_\_\_\_\_
8. I will choose a comedy, which both of us can enjoy. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Some dependent clauses are essential to the meaning of the sentence. Do not use commas to set off these clauses.
- Some clauses are nonessential. They do not affect the basic meaning of the sentence. Use commas to set off these clauses.
- Dashes or parentheses can also set off nonessential clauses.

**Decide whether the clause is essential or nonessential to the meaning of the sentence. Write an *E* for essential and an *N* for nonessential. If needed, rewrite the sentence using the correct punctuation.**

1. I want to buy a present for my dad whose birthday is next week. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. I would like to buy him a wristwatch because he does not have one. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. He loves the watch, that sits in the window of the jewelry store. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. I will look for a similar one that is not so expensive. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. My grandmother's watch which she has had for twenty years came from a department store. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- A **complex sentence** contains an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.
- A **subordinating conjunction** or a relative pronoun connects a dependent and independent clause.
- Do not use commas to set off clauses that are essential to the meaning of the sentence.
- Use commas, dashes, or parentheses to set off nonessential clauses.

**Rewrite the sentences. Correct the capitalization and punctuation mistakes, adding punctuation as needed. Draw a line under the complex sentences.**

1. although I like sports and snow I have never learned to ski \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. my scout troop is going skiing this December \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. All the scouts will take skiing lessons, before we hit the big slopes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. we will spend the night at Sugar Loaf Camp which is near the ski hill. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. This is, the camp where I learned, how to swim when I was eight \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. in summer, we sleep in tents, because the nights are warm \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. this december the nights will be very cold \_\_\_\_\_
8. I am glad that we will sleep in a cabin! \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Each exercise begins with a sentence that, when joined with the correct answer choice, will result in a complex sentence. Circle the letter of your answer.

Hint: The correct answer will be a clause.

1. My family goes to the community theater
  - a. on the weekend.
  - b. when a new production opens.
  - c. located in the school auditorium.
  
2. This season, the theater is putting on a play
  - a. that everyone will love.
  - b. for free.
  - c. about pirates and tropical islands.
  
3. The show is about a man
  - a. who talks to an invisible rabbit.
  - b. and his family in Argentina.
  - c. named Jim.
  
4. The actors in the play put on a great show
  - a. at every performance.
  - b. for the audience.
  - c. because they rehearse so often.
  
5. I would like to act in a local production
  - a. someday in the future.
  - b. when I am older.
  - c. at the theater.