

Name _____ Date _____

PRACTICE: *Understanding and Identifying Independent and Dependent Clauses*

Remember, a dependent clause CAN NOT stand on its own as a complete sentence. When reading these, you are left confused and are in need of more information. Below are words that typically begin a dependent clause:

as, after, before, until, once, since, while, when, whenever where, wherever although, though, despite if, even if, even though, how, unless, whether because, in order to, why who, which, that

Independent clauses CAN stand on their own as complete sentences!

Underline the independent clause:

1. Some of us liked last night's performance, but many people did not.
2. We stayed at the airport after the plane had taken off.
3. David bought two tickets and gave them to his business partners.
4. The sculpture in front of the museum was removed because many people complained that it was ugly.
5. He is excited about his new job, and he is ready to work.

Underline the dependent clause:

1. Before he sat down, he wiped his seat.
2. After they finished writing their papers, they went to the underground.
3. The Thelens own the house that stands near the lake.
4. The book that won the award had not been expected to win.
5. He took the writing class because he wanted to improve his own composition.

Underline the independent clauses and enclose the (dependent clauses) in parentheses:

1. If he does not turn in his paper, he will not pass the course.
2. James could have done his own work, although he did not think so.
3. Meg was very irritable at dinner because she had been working on her graduate school essay all day.
4. The book she read confused her, but she gave her report to the class, who also became confused after hearing her.
5. The prospective teacher seemed very intelligent until he spoke.