

Grammar: Clauses

ANSWERS

A **clause** is a phrase that contains both a subject and a predicate. It can stand alone or combine with other clauses to form a sentence.

An *independent clause* makes sense by itself. It can form a sentence on its own. For example, *Julia wants to go shopping* is an independent clause. A *dependent clause* needs the main clause to make its full meaning clear. For example, in the phrase *Julia wants to go shopping because she has nothing to wear*, the phrase “*because she has nothing to wear*” is a dependent clause.



1. Break the following sentences down into independent clauses.

Example:

Sentence: I was not very hungry, but I ate my lunch.

Clause 1: I was not very hungry.

Clause 2: I ate my lunch.

Sentence: Julia loves to wear bright colors, so she often dresses in red.

Clause 1: Julia loves to wear bright colors. *Clause 2:* She often dresses in red.

Sentence: Julia shops at secondhand stores because they have the best bargains.

Clause 1: Julia shops at secondhand stores. *Clause 2:* They have the best bargains.

2. Combine the clauses into one complete sentence. Use conjunctions, such as *and*, *because*, *but*, and *so*, to create the sentences.

Example:

Sentence: I did not eat the tuna sandwich. I do not like tuna.

Clause 1: I did not eat the tuna sandwich because I do not like tuna.

Clauses: Jamey likes to draw. He enjoys painting the most.

Sentence: Jamey likes to draw, but he enjoys painting the most.

Clauses: Jamey wants to paint a picture. He takes out his paints and brushes.

Sentence: Jamey wants to paint a picture, so he takes out his paints and brushes.

