

## Independent Clause

### Introduction

1) An independent (main) clause contains a subject and a predicate and expresses a finished thought. Thus it can stand alone as a sentence.

*Sarah wants to study Spanish.*

2) The independent clause is a simple sentence when dependent clauses within one sentence are absent.

*I don't want to go to the pub tonight. (simple sentence)*

*I have to work tomorrow. (simple sentence)*

The independent clause forms a complex sentence together with a dependent clause. In this case, use a conjunction.

*I don't want to go to the pub tonight **because** I have work tomorrow. (complex sentence consisting of an independent clause and a dependent one; two clauses are connected with the help of a conjunction **because**)*

Two independent clauses can form a sentence. In this case, use a *semicolon (;)*.

*My little sister doesn't like reading; she falls asleep within 2 minutes.*

*Lucy has a business trip in a week; Lucy's mom will help with the kids.*

### Short Story Dialogue

– **Why can't I have a sleepover? Mom, you promised me that I could invite my friends over this week!**

– **I'm sorry, honey, but let's do it some other time. Our grandma is staying with us; it would be too noisy.**

– **But mom! You promised me!**

– **I'm very sorry, sweetheart. Let's do it next Friday, OK?**

## Independent Practice - Independent Clause

### 1) Underline independent clauses.

- a. She walked as if she were on a runway.
- b. I don't like the idea of you buying a motorbike as it is extremely dangerous and you are likely to get injured.
- c. We don't sell coffee here.
- d. When she heard the news, Mia burst into tears.
- e. George will probably decline our invitation; he's been busy at work.
- f. Although it seemed impossible, Kate got a full scholarship.
- g. She wouldn't have succeeded if it weren't for her parents.

### 2) Rewrite the sentences so that each clause is independent.

a. Peter wanted to study abroad as he liked the idea of working in an international team. .....
b. She couldn't answer the question since she wasn't even listening. .....
c. I didn't want to go to the supermarket because it was raining. .....

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Independent Clause

### 1) Underline independent clauses.

- a. She walked as if she were on a runway.
- b. I don't like the idea of you buying a motorbike as it is extremely dangerous and you are likely to get injured.
- c. We don't sell coffee here.
- d. When she heard the news, Mia burst into tears.
- e. George will probably decline our invitation; he's been busy at work.
- f. Although it seemed impossible, Kate got a full scholarship.
- g. She wouldn't have succeeded if it weren't for her parents.

### 2) Rewrite the sentences so that each clause is independent. Sample Answers:

- a. Peter wanted to study abroad. He liked the idea of working in an international team.
- b. She couldn't answer the question. She wasn't even listening.
- c. I didn't want to go to the supermarket; it was raining.