

# CLAUSES

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## Key:

**I like him.** (This is an independent clause. Independent clauses will be bolded.)

*Because I like him.* (This is a dependent clause. Dependent clauses will be italicized.)

## Definitions

1. Clause: contains a subject and a verb.
2. Independent Clause: contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. It can stand on its own.
3. Dependent Clause: contains a subject and verb but not a complete thought. It can't stand on its own.

## How to punctuate sentences with dependent clauses

- If the dependent clause comes first, put a comma between it and the following independent clause.

*Because I like him, I'll go out with him.*

- If the dependent clause comes last, no punctuation is necessary.

**I'll go out with him** *because I like him.*

## Three ways to punctuate two independent clauses

- Simply use a period, and create two sentences.

**I like him. I'll go out with him.**

- Use a semicolon just like a period, but don't capitalize unless a proper noun begins the clause.

**I like him; I'll go out with him.**

- Use one of the coordinating conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so). Remember to use a comma before the conjunction.

**I like him, so I'll go out with him.**

If a clause begins with one of these words, it is dependent:

after	since	whereas
although	so that	wherever
as	than	whether
as if	that	which
because	though	whichever
before	unless	while
even if	until	who
even though	what	whom
ever since	whatever	whose
how	when	why
if	whenever	
in order that	where	

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