

Name _____

Date _____

Independent and Dependent Clauses

Definition

Independent clauses express complete thoughts with subject and verb; they can stand alone as sentences.

Dependent clauses have subject and verb but express incomplete thoughts; they must connect to independent clauses.

Example

Type	Example	Can Stand Alone?
Independent	"The students completed their projects."	Yes
Dependent	"Because it was raining"	No
Combined	"When the bell rang, the students went home."	Contains both types

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. Identify the independent clause in the following sentence:
Although the Alps formed when the African and Eurasian tectonic plates collided, the folding process took millions of years to complete.

- A. Although the Alps formed when the African and Eurasian tectonic plates collided
- B. When the African and Eurasian tectonic plates collided
- C. The folding process took millions of years to complete
- D. The Alps formed when the African and Eurasian tectonic plates collided

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2. Which of these is a complete sentence containing both an independent and dependent clause?

- A. The dramatic folds in the Alps creating some of the world's most spectacular mountain scenery.
- B. Because the Alps continue to rise a few millimeters each year.
- C. The sedimentary rocks were compressed and folded during tectonic collision.
- D. While many tourists visit the Alps for skiing, geologists study the mountains to understand Earth's crustal movements.

3. In the sentence "The Alps rise dramatically where the continental plates meet, which causes the distinct folded patterns in the landscape," identify the dependent clause:

- A. The Alps rise dramatically
- B. Where the continental plates meet
- C. Which causes the distinct folded patterns in the landscape
- D. The Alps rise dramatically where the continental plates meet

4. Which sentence structure correctly describes "After intense pressure forced the marine sediments upward, the Alps began forming their characteristic folded patterns"?

- A. Independent clause + independent clause
- B. Dependent clause + independent clause
- C. Independent clause + dependent clause
- D. Dependent clause + dependent clause

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5. Identify the sentence that contains ONLY an independent clause:

- A. The geologists collected rock samples that revealed the mountain's ancient marine origins.
- B. When viewed from above, the folded structures of the Alps resemble wrinkled fabric.
- C. The dramatic Alpine landscape attracts millions of tourists every year.
- D. Although the mountain-building process began about 65 million years ago.

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence by adding either an independent or dependent clause as indicated. Make sure your added clause relates to the Alps' folded terrain features.

- 1. _____ (independent clause), the folded rock layers in the Alps provide evidence of tremendous tectonic forces.
- 2. The Alpine folds contain marine fossils because _____ (dependent clause).
- 3. _____ (dependent clause), hikers can clearly see the dramatic folded strata in exposed cliff faces.
- 4. Geologists study the Alpine synclines and anticlines _____ (dependent clause).
- 5. _____ (dependent clause), the limestone layers of the Alps created spectacular folded patterns.

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Independent and Dependent Clauses – Answer Key**Part 1: Multiple Choice**

1. C, 2. D, 3. C, 4. B, 5. C

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. Possible answer: Visible from satellite imagery (or) Studied by geologists for centuries (Any complete thought with subject and verb that can stand alone)

2. Possible answer: these mountains were once ancient seabeds that were pushed upward during tectonic collision (or) sedimentary layers containing marine organisms were compressed and lifted during the Alpine orogeny

3. Possible answer: When standing at higher elevations (or) As erosion has exposed the mountain's interior (or) Although millions of years have passed since their formation

4. Possible answer: to understand how sedimentary rocks respond to compression (or) because they reveal important information about Earth's geological history (or) which helps them predict future mountain formation

5. Possible answer: When subjected to intense pressure during the continental collision (or) Although they began as flat horizontal deposits (or) Since limestone is particularly susceptible to folding under pressure