**What Is an Independent Clause? (with Examples)**

An independent clause is a [clause](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/clause.htm) that can stand alone as a [sentence](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/sentences.htm) (i.e., it expresses a complete thought).  
  
An independent clause, like all clauses, has a [subject](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/subject.htm) and [verb](https://www.grammar-monster.com/lessons/verbs.htm).  
  
When there are no [dependent clauses](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/dependent_clause.htm) in the same sentence as an independent clause, the independent clause is a [simple sentence](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/simple_sentence.htm). For example:

* **I like coconut macaroons**.

(This is an **independent clause** and simple sentence.)

* **I like coconut macaroons** even though I dislike coconut.

(This is an **independent clause** and a dependent clause. This is a [complex sentence](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/complex_sentence.htm).)

**Independent Clauses**

* Hurricanes strengthen over warm waters.
* It is good to tackle the hardest chores first.
* Meredith fixed the leaky faucet all by herself.
* The soprano sang the aria perfectly.
* Cheetahs are the fastest land animals.
* Hiking and biking are my favorite summertime activities.
* It is very important to brush your teeth twice a day.
* We can hardly wait to see the movie.
* This fall’s television line-up is lacking in diversity.
* The brand new Italian restaurant is beautifully decorated.
* There is a lot of apathy concerning the upcoming election.
* Andrew decided to buy a sundae instead of a double-scoop cone.
* Joan teaches science and algebra at the community college.
* The squirrels are busy storing nuts for the winter.
* I like to swim laps to stay in shape.
* The team persevered and finally broke the tie.
* The Alps in Switzerland are breathtaking.

**Examples of Independent Clauses in sentences**

Here are some examples of independent clauses (shaded). Notice how they could stand alone as sentences. (This is the difference between an independent clause and a dependent clause.)

* Life is something that happens when you can't get to sleep. (Fran Lebowitz)
* The best defense against the atom bomb is not to be there when it goes off. (Anon)
* I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something. (Jackie Mason)
* Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. (Will Rogers, 1879-1935)
* My one regret in life is that I am not someone else. (Woody Allen)
* After I got home, I cooked and cleaned the house.
* I ate leftover roast beef, but the kids didn’t.
* I hide ice cream at my house because I can.
* My toddler won’t eat her potatoes, but I will.
* Bethany dumped her soda in the car, but didn’t clean it up.
* I went to the store before sunset.
* Studying before the test is good, if you want to pass.
* Her hair color is fake, and it shows.