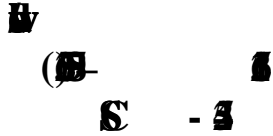


UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER
20+ years of student success



Independent vs. Dependent Clauses

Overview:

Copyright (C) 2016. All rights reserved.

This handout is part of a library of instructional materials used in California State University, Long Beach's writing center, the Writer's Resource Lab. Educators and students are welcome to distribute copies as long as they do so with attribution to all organizations and authors. Commercial distribution is prohibited.

Practice: Now look at your own writing. Focus on one paragraph, and locate independent clauses and dependent clauses in that paragraph. Do you have several independent clauses standing alone as simple sentences? Find two simple sentences and combine them by adding a dependent word to one of them, and add a comma if necessary. Make sure, however, that the sentences in your paragraph are not all the same type. Try putting the dependent clause at the beginning of some sentences and the end of others. Remember that variety makes writing more interesting.

Copyright (C) 2016. All rights reserved.

This handout is part of a library of instructional materials used in California State University, Long Beach's writing center, the Writer's Resource Lab. Educators and students are welcome to distribute copies as long as they do so with attribution to all organizations and authors. Commercial distribution is prohibited.