Clauses

What is a clause? A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb.

There are 2 kinds of clauses:

1. **The independent clause is a complete sentence that makes sense on its own, like this:**

   She eats a big breakfast.

2. **The dependent clause is an incomplete sentence that doesn't make sense on its own, like this:**

   When she wakes up each morning.

Dependent clauses cannot be left on their own because they express incomplete thoughts. They have to be joined with an independent clause.

There are 2 basic ways to join clauses:

1. **Put the independent clause first, and don't use a comma, like this:**

   She eats a big breakfast when she wakes up each morning.

2. **Put the dependent clause first, and use a comma, like this:**

   When she wakes up each morning, she eats a big breakfast.

Tip to Remember: Although both types of clauses have a subject and a verb, dependent clauses can't stand on their own and must be joined to an independent clause.

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