**Complex Sentences**

You’ve already learned that a clause has a subject and a verb. There are two kinds of clauses:

1. An independent clause 2. A dependent clause

**Simple Sentence:** A simple sentence only has a subject and a complete predicate.

*Examples: The dog barked. / The big, hairy dog with sharp teeth barked at the mailman.*

**Complex Sentence:** A dependent clause needs an independent clause. When you put the two together, you have a complex sentence.

*Examples: When the mailman arrived, the dog barked.*

Dependent clause Independent Clause

**Subordinate Conjunctions:** Subordinate conjunctions connect a dependent clause with an independent clause. Here are some examples:

*after although because before if once unless until whenever while*

**Directions:** Underline the independent clause and highlight the dependent clause below.

1. The mailman wouldn’t deliver our mail after my dog bit him in the leg.

**Independent Clause Dependent Clause**

2. Sarah could have done better on the assignment although she did receive an A.

3. Because she didn’t say, “Mother may I?” she had to start over.

4. Before my mom would let me spend the night, she had to talk to Jamie’s mom.

5. If you study for the test, you will do much better.

6. Once the play started, we were not allowed to talk.

7. We won’t be able to play unless the rain stops by noon.

8. Rex practiced his guitar until he could play the song perfectly.

9. Whenever I think about my third grade teacher, I have a warm feeling inside.

10. We played games while the adults sat and talked.

**Dependent Clause:** A dependent clause has a subject and a verb. However, it has NO complete

thought. It needs an independent clause. Therefore, it is dependent on the independent clause.

Example: After Tyler called his friend. . . Subject = Tyler Verb = Called

**Independent Clause:** An independent clause has a subject, verb, and a complete thought.

It is a sentence.

Example: He met him at the park.