Independent Clauses

An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence because it features:

- a subject,
- a verb
- an object (when necessary).

Example: Mario ran. Mario swung the bat.

Dependent Clauses

A dependent clause must be attached to an independent clause because it is not a “complete thought.”

A dependent clause may begin with a conjunction:

- after he hit the ball
- because the pitcher threw a slider

A dependent clause may be an adjectival or adverbial phrase:

- fast as lightening
- a powerful hitter

Adding restrictive elements

An independent clause can hold various elements in addition to its subject, verb, and (when needed) object without requiring a comma, including dependent clauses.

Example: Mario took a fierce swing at the ball as it flew toward the plate.