

CLAUSES



Become a Super Writer

Roberto uses an atlas to explore. Read this sentence from his journal.

The highest mountain in North America is Mount McKinley,
 (which I would like to climb some day.)

There are two **clauses** in this sentence. One clause is underlined. Notice that it states a complete thought. The other clause is circled. This clause is not a complete thought. It cannot stand alone.

Definition • Usage

A **clause** is a group of words that has a subject and a predicate.

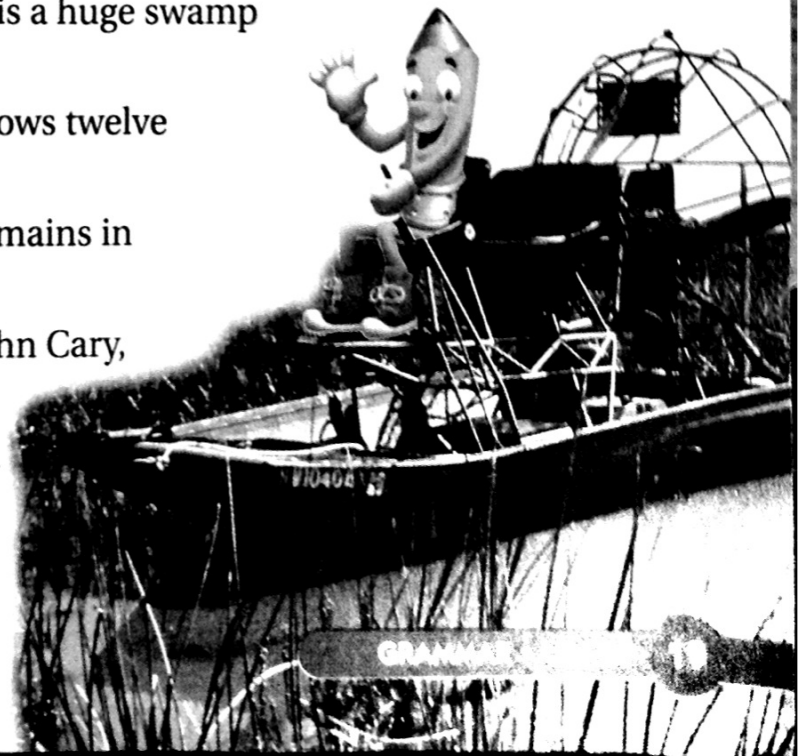
A clause that can stand alone is an **independent clause**.

A clause that can't stand alone is a **dependent clause**. It may begin with words like *which*, *who*, or *that*.

Your Turn

Underline each dependent clause in the following sentences from Roberto's journal. Circle the words *which*, *who*, or *that*.

1. The Grand Canyon is the most exciting place that I have ever seen.
2. The Colorado River was mapped by explorers who were very brave indeed.
3. One was John Wesley Powell, who had lost an arm in the Civil War.
4. The largest freshwater lake in the world is Lake Superior, which is one of the Great Lakes.
5. Niagara Falls is one sight that I really must see someday.
6. I'd also like to visit the Everglades, which is a huge swamp in Florida.
7. There's sawgrass in the Everglades that grows twelve feet high.
8. I'm also curious about the wildlife that remains in the Everglades.
9. A world atlas was published in 1808 by John Cary, who was born in England.
10. I use the atlas that was published in 1998.



Label each clause as *dependent* or *independent*, using the lines provided.
 Edit the independent clauses to add periods (⊙) and capital letters (≡).

11. who is an arm-chair traveler now _____
12. Roberto wants to be a travel writer someday _____
13. which is an island in Florida _____
14. the southernmost point in the United States is Key West _____
15. which was settled by the French _____
16. many tourists are attracted to New Orleans, Louisiana _____
17. boat trips through the bayous are taken by many visitors _____
18. who come to New Orleans _____
19. which is in Bar Harbor, Maine _____
20. Cadillac Mountain is part of Acadia National Park _____
21. Thunder Hole is a popular site _____
22. that tourists like to visit _____
23. in his journal, Roberto makes a list of places _____
24. that he wants to visit and write about _____

Editing

Read Roberto's description of New York City.
 Circle the five dependent clauses.

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|----------|----------------|---|
| Mistakes | Capitalization | 3 |
| | Punctuation | 2 |
| | Spelling | 5 |

New york is one of the greatest cities in the world. In 1619 the Dutch settled the city, which is maid up of five boroughs. Native Americans sold Manhattan Island to Peter Minuit, who was one of the settlement's first governors. The settlers got a real bargain with the \$24 worth of trinkets that Governor minuit pade. New York, whitch was than called New amsterdam, grew rapidly It continued to grow for three centuries. Today the city attracts people who come from all over the world. Some come as tourists, but many also come to live and to work?