

Clause

A clause is a unit of grammatical organization next below the sentence in rank and in traditional grammar said to consist of a Subject and a predicate.

Independent clause

An independent clause can express a complete thought. So it is also called as standalone sentence

Ex. "Mary ate an apple after she watched the movie".

Consider the part underlined. "Mary ate an apple". considering it alone can give a sense of completeness. It represents a complete action or thought. So it is the independent clause here.

Dependent clause

A dependent clause is usually a supporting part of a sentence and it cannot stand by itself as a meaningful idea .

Ex. "Mary ate an apple after she watched the movie".

Now let us consider the second part. "after she watched the movie". Here this is just a supporting part, subordinated to the independent clause , it cannot express a meaningful idea when considered alone.

Clause analysis

Clause analysis is the procedure of dividing sentences into main and dependent clauses. There are three types of dependent clauses :

A clause that performs the function of a noun is a noun clause.

A clause that functions like adverbs is called adverb clauses.

A clause that performs an adjectival function is called adjective clause or relative clause.