

IC/DC

INTRODUCTION

WORKSHOP GOAL

1. To help you to never get these marks on your paper: RO, CS, Frag.
2. To help you feel *confident* about when sentences are complete and when they're not and confident that you know how to find out. In writing, this is often harder than it sounds.

Subjects and verbs form clauses, of which there are two types. The first, many of you know, is an independent clause, or an IC. What's an independent clause? You know this.

subject + verb + complete thought = independent clause

Today, we are going to talk about Independent and Dependent clauses (You will often hear us refer to these as ICs and DCs).

INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

Independent clauses can stand on their own. They are independent! They have a subject and verb and make a complete thought. Basically, they are complete sentences.

EXAMPLE (On Board)

The giraffe ate the leaves. (This sentence has a subject, a verb, and has a complete thought.)

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

A dependent clause is an independent clause with a "dependent maker" word on it.

EXAMPLE (On Board)

Let's use a "ring" word (a dependent maker) on our previous sentence and see what it does to it.
Before the giraffe ate the leaves.

Is this sentence complete? No. It is **not independent** and cannot stand alone. It is a clause because it has a subject and verb, but what kind of clause? Dependent. We need to complete it.

What did the giraffe do before it ate the leaves? How can we make it complete?

Possible answers:

- it drank some water.
- it wandered in the grassland.

LORD OF THE RINGS COMPARISON

- I like to use *The Lord of the Rings* to help me understand independent and dependent clauses.
- Frodo, the hobbit, is perfectly capable of walking to Mordor by himself. However, the ring that he has to carry makes him burdened, weak, and unable to complete his quest by himself.
- He *needs* help, which comes in the form of Samwise Gamgee.
- The ring makes Frodo dependent, and he needs Sam (the independent clause) to complete the quest (sentence).

The clause you tack on the giraffe example **MUST** be an independent clause—a Samwise Gamgee—to hold the sentence up.

RULES FOR COMBINING TWO ICS

(List rule 1-4. Leave room to write the actual rule after discussing with the students.)

RULE 1: PERIODS (IC.IC)

- Come to a screeching halt, and place a period between two ICs. They're complete sentences!
EXAMPLE (On Board): I want to go skiing. It is snowing. (Show that both are ICs)

RULE 2: FANBOYS (IC FANBOYS IC)

- Whenever you use one of the FANBOYS to combine two ICs, you ALWAYS need a comma before the FANBOYS.
- (*Explain what each of the FANBOYS means. And is like addition: I like this, and I like that. But is showing a contradiction with previous statement: I like this, but I do not like that*)
EXAMPLE (On Board): I want to go skiing, and it is snowing.

RULE 3: SEMI-COLONS (IC; IC)

- If there are two ICs, you can use a semi-colon between them.
- The semi-colon is like the older brother of the comma. The comma can't take care of the 2 ICs on its own, so it has to call in its older brother for help. You don't always want your older brother to always fight your fights. Therefore, use semi-colons sparingly—only one per semester, please.
EXAMPLE (On Board): I want to go skiing; it is snowing.

RULE 4: RING WORDS (Dependent Maker Words) (IC → DC)

- If you have two ICs, you can use a “ring” word to make one dependent.
EXAMPLE (On Board): I want to go skiing because it is snowing. OR Because it is snowing, I want to go skiing.

DC, IC

When the DC starts the sentence, you will need a comma to separate the DC from the IC. This helps to prevent misreading.

INCORRECT EXAMPLE (On Board): When he returned the cat was licking the orange.
(This makes it sound like he returned the cat!)

CORRECT EXAMPLE (On Board): When he returned, the cat was licking the orange.

When the IC comes before the DC, you do not need a comma.

The cat was licking the orange when he returned.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Have each group add something to their sentences using either a DC or one of the FANBOYS to hook two ICs together. (Make sure that each group is assigned a different FANBOYS so that not everyone is using “and.”)

CONCLUSION: Restate rules 1-4.

COLOR KEY

BLUE TEXT refers to something that should be written on the board for the workshop.

GREEN TEXT is for added emphasis or is for something important but that is hard to spot in a big block of text.