

The Independent Clause

17b. An *independent* (or *main*) *clause* expresses a complete thought and can stand by itself as a sentence.

An independent clause used by itself is generally called a *sentence*. The term *independent clause* is generally used when such a clause is joined with at least one other clause (either independent or subordinate) to make a sentence.

EXAMPLES ^S [✓] He then gave the page to Edie, and ^S [✓] she added hypertext for the links to other Web pages. [two independent clauses joined by *and*]

^S [✓] These links are programmed with Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), which is easier to say and to remember. [one independent clause combined with a subordinate clause]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the independent clause or clauses.

Example 1. Before a computer can process data, the machine must know what and where the material is and how it relates to a Web page.

- HTML can only describe to a computer the positions for information, graphics, and buttons on a display screen or Web page.
- More efficient than HTML, XML (Extensible Markup Language) is a tool that tells computers how to find, relate, and share information.
- XML tags information so that the computer knows the difference, for example, between the various numbers on a customer's order or credit memo.
- Equally important, tags usually appear before and after any data that is being described.
- Nesting is a convenient feature of tags because it allows grouping of related bits of data.
- Anyone interested in XML should be able to follow the rules for using it.
- Users can create tag labels in everyday language for their businesses.
- Because tags can function as a tree, or outline, with any number of related groups, some labels will be more specific than others will.
- Usually, a pair of tags is created for each bit of data; each tag is written inside angle brackets that look like arrow points, one facing left, the other facing right.
- XML tags for movie listings, for example, might include the words *movies*, *title*, and *star*.