

## Identifying Independent and Subordinate Clauses

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

**17c.** A *subordinate* (or *dependent*) *clause* does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a sentence.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** <sup>S V</sup> I play the guitar, and <sup>S V</sup> George sings.

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** <sup>S V S V</sup> Where you go, I will go.

**EXERCISE A** Identify each of the following clauses by writing above it *I* for *independent clause* or *S* for *subordinate clause*.

**Example 1.** <sup>S</sup> whatever you expect to see on an island.

- Cuba is the largest island in the Greater Antilles
- where more than six thousand species of plants grow
- that the national flower is the mariposa
- this flower is also called the butterfly jasmine
- since the southern coast has mangrove swamps supporting birds and wildlife

**EXERCISE B** To each of the following subordinate clauses, add an independent clause. Write your revised sentences on the lines provided.

**Example 1.** If you buy that magazine, If you buy that magazine,  
I'd like to read it.

6. Whenever you walk on the beach, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Although summer is starting off hot, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Because I live in this country, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What I need now \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. After I graduate, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_