

Name _____

INDEPENDENT CLAUSES and DEPENDENT CLAUSES

Date _____

A clause has a subject and a verb. The subject tells **who** or **what** a sentence is about.

Example: A frog hopped along.

This sentence is about a *frog*. *Frog* is the subject.

A verb tells **what is (was)** or **what happens (happened)**.

Example: A frog hopped along.

Hopped tells what happened in the sentence. *Hopped* is the verb. We place one line under the word, frog, to show it is the subject. We place two lines under the word, hopped, to show it is the verb.

A clause has a subject and a verb. The sentence, "*A frog hopped along*," is a clause because it has both a subject and a verb. This clause says a complete thought and is called an **independent clause**.

Another type of clause is a **dependent clause**. It does have a subject and a verb, but it sounds like the person quit talking in the middle of the thought.

Example: When she goes home

The subject of the clause is *she*. The verb is *goes*. However, we have no idea how the person may finish the thought. We are left not knowing what the person is going to