

# AP English Language Unit 8

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## Overview of Unit 8

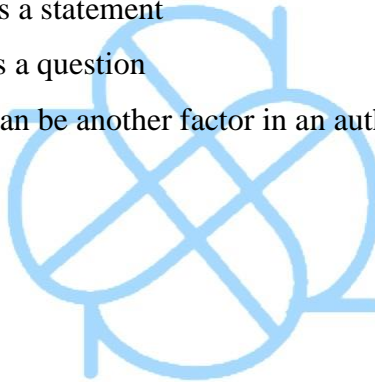
- 1B. Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.
- 2B. Demonstrate an understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.
- 7A. Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.
- 8A. Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument.
- 7B. Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas.
- 8B. Write sentences that clearly convey ideas and arguments.

## Audience Beliefs

- Writers use different strategies to connect with the audience and their beliefs.
- Writers use rhetoric devices and rhetorical appeals to convince the audience of their claims.
- When writing your own argument make sure to define who your audience is and who you are speaking to. Take into consideration things such as:
  - Age
  - Education
  - How familiar they are with your subject matter
  - Their interest
  - Their values and beliefs

## Text Style

- The text style can be determined by the various choices made by the author. Elements that contribute to an author's style can consist of word choice, diction, syntax, tone, etc.
- The word choice and syntax can contribute to the tone.
- The tone is the author's attitude towards a certain subject.
- Syntax is the arrangement of words in a sentence. The arrangement of the words is important for sending the author's message.
- The placement of words can easily change the meaning of the phrase, which is why syntax is important to consider when analyzing the author's style and tone.
- The types of sentences used by the author should also be considered. Here are the four types:
  - Exclamatory: Expresses a strong feeling
  - Imperative: Gives a command
  - Declarative: Makes a statement
  - Interrogative: Asks a question
- The length of a sentence can be another factor in an author's style.



- Here's a list of words to describe the author's tone

## **List of Words to Describe Author's Tone**

<b><u>Tone</u></b>	<b><u>Meaning</u></b>
Apologetic	sorry
Appreciative	grateful; thankful
Concerned	worried or interest
Critical	finding fault
Curious	wanting to find out more
Defensive	defending
Direct	straightforward; honest
Disappointed	discouraged; unhappy because something went wrong
Encouraging	optimistic
Enthusiastic	excited; energetic
Formal	respectful; appropriate behavior
Frustrated	angry because of not being able to do something
Hopeful	looking forward to something; optimistic
Humorous	funny
Informal	not formal; relaxed
Inspirational	encouraging; reassuring
Ironic	different from what is expected or the opposite of what is meant
Judgmental	judging others; critical
Lighthearted	happy, carefree
Mocking	scornful; ridiculing; making fun of someone
Negative	unhappy; pessimistic
Neutral	neither good nor bad; neither for nor against
Nostalgic	thinking about the past; wishing for something from the past
Objective	without prejudice; without discrimination; fair
Optimistic	hopeful; cheerful
Pessimistic	seeing the bad side of things
Sarcastic	scornful; mocking; ridiculing
Satirical	making fun of something to show its weakness or teach a lesson
Sentimental	thinking about feelings, especially when remembering the past
Sincere	honest; truthful; earnest
Sympathetic	compassionate; understanding of how someone feels
Urgent	insistent; saying something must be done soon

### **TAPS:**


**T=Tone**  
**A=Audience**  
**P=Purpose**  
**S=Structure (evidence)**

Photo Source: [List of Words to Describe Author's Tone](#)



## Clauses



- A clause is “a grammatical unit that contains a subject and a verb” (definition from <http://www.riversidelocalschools.com/Downloads/ap%20resource%20packet.pdf>)
- An independent clause is a complete thought while a dependent clause is only a partial one that can not be its own sentence.
- Clauses can be used to link ideas, contrast them, provide reasoning, provide results, etc.
- Here's a visual to help clear any confusions!



# HOW TO IDENTIFY

## INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT CLAUSES

**A clause** is a grouping of words in English that contains a subject and a verb. Clauses are the building blocks of sentences.



### INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

- An **independent clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. An independent clause is a sentence.
- There are three characteristics or components that independent clauses have:
  1. **A subject:** It gives information on what the sentence is about.
  2. **An action or predicate:** It gives information on what the subject is doing.
  3. **Conveys a complete thought:** It gives information on what is happening in the sentence.  
E.g. I forgot my homework.

### DEPENDENT CLAUSE

- A **dependent clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. A dependent clause cannot be a sentence.
- Dependent clauses are dependent because of the presence of a:
  1. **Marker Word** (because, after, before, since, in order to, although, though, whenever, wherever, whether, while, even though, even if, etc.)
  2. **Conjunction** (but, and, or, nor, yet, etc.)

E.g. Because I forgot my homework, I got sent home.

[www.eslgrammar.org](http://www.eslgrammar.org)

Photo Source: [How to Identify Independent and Dependent Clauses](http://www.eslgrammar.org)