

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

gnawed bitten or worn away

headland narrow ridge of high land jutting out into water; promontory

kelp any of various large, tough, brown seaweeds

lair den or resting place of a wild animal

ravine a long, deep, narrow valley eroded by running water

shellfish a water animal with a shell. Oysters, clams, crabs, and lobsters are shellfish.

sinew tendon

Grammar

Independent and Dependent Clauses

A clause is a group of related words that has a subject and a predicate. If a clause makes sense by itself, it is an **independent clause**. If a clause does not make sense by itself, it is a **dependent clause**. *For example:* *Tim had a ticket that he bought with his own money.* “Tim had a ticket” is the *independent clause* because it makes sense by itself. However, “that he bought with his own money” is *dependent* because it does not make sense by itself.

Activity

Clause Connection Create a T-chart on a sheet of paper. Cover the right column and have a family member write five independent clauses in it. Now cover the left column and write five dependent clauses. Then uncover the chart and take turns creating new sentences by combining an independent clause from the table with one (or more) dependent clauses.

Practice Tested Spelling Words

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