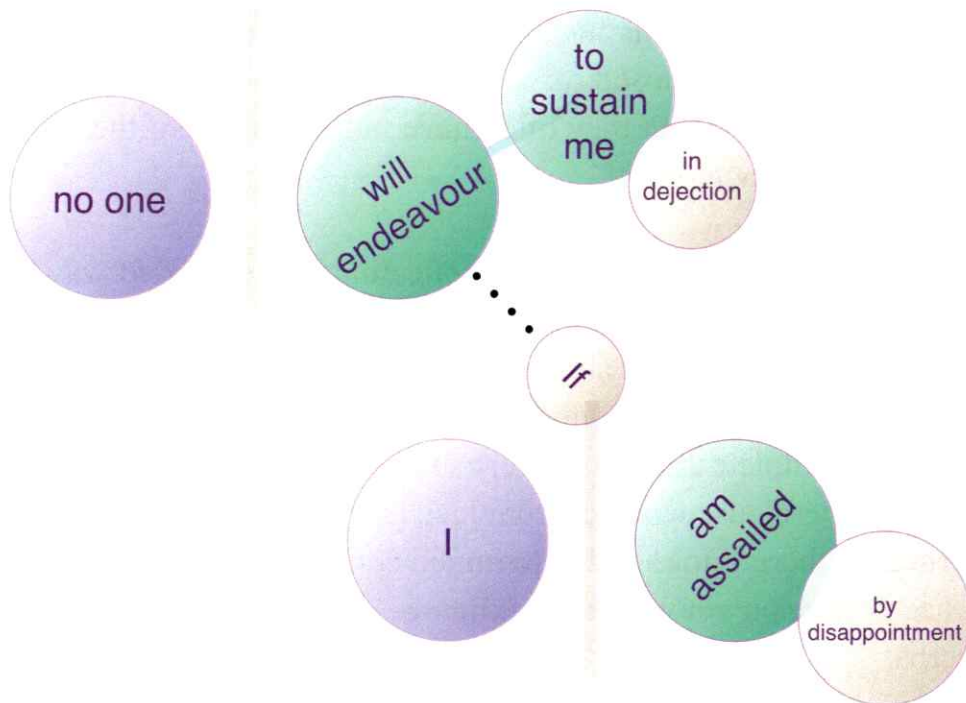


A subject with a compound verb is not two clauses, nor is a compound subject with a single verb, such as “Dickens and Austen used many of the same words.” That is only one clause. A sentence with two clauses must have two subject/predicate sets, two nuclei. Here is a **complex sentence** (an independent clause joined to a dependent clause) that has two clauses from Mary Shelley’s brilliant novel *Frankenstein*: “If I am assailed by disappointment, no one will endeavour to sustain me in dejection.”



In this sentence, the first clause, “If I am assailed by disappointment...,” is a dependent clause acting as an adverb to modify the verb in the main clause. It begins with the subordinating conjunction *If*, which all by itself renders the entire clause dependent. Without the *If*, the clause would read “I am assailed by disappointment” and would make perfectly good sense. Notice that the noun *disappointment* cannot be a direct object because it is the object of a preposition; it cannot be both. Notice also the brainpower of Mary Shelley’s vocabulary; in this one sentence she uses *endeavour*, *sustain*, *dejection*, and *assailed*. In addition to its other virtues, *Frankenstein* is a one-book vocabulary course. Using *I* for independent and *D* for dependent, we will call this complex sentence a D,I sentence, meaning that its structure is *dependent-comma-independent*. The comma is required when the dependent clause comes first.