



# IIT Madras

## BSc Degree

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# **CLAUSE ANALYSIS - I**

- There can be a clause without a sentence, but there can be no sentence without a clause.
- At least one clause must be there in a sentence to be called a sentence.
- Different kinds of clause can do different functions in a sentence. They can work like nouns, adjectives or adverbs.

- As nouns, they can be subject or object to a verb, or they can be a clause in apposition, telling more about the same.
- A clause can also be in adjectival function, or in an adverbial function, qualifying a noun, or another adjective or another adverb.

# VIDEO CLIP

**video link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81Ub0SMxZQo>

Please watch the section 00:00 – 01:00

**Source:** TED

**Video description:** TED Talk by Bill Gates on “Teachers need real feedback”.

We are using 1.00 minute of this video for academic purposes.

# TRANSCRIPT

Everyone needs a coach. It doesn't matter whether you're a basketball player, a tennis player, a gymnast or a bridge player. My bridge coach, Sharon Osberg, says there are more pictures of the back of her head than anyone else's in the world. than anyone else's in the world. Sorry, Sharon. Here you go. We all need people who will give us feedback. That's how we improve. Unfortunately, there's one group of people who get almost no systematic feedback to help them do their jobs better, and these people have one of the most important jobs in the world. I'm talking about teachers.

For instance, see the following sentence:

*Six weeks later Rajam came to Swaminathan's house to announce that he forgave him all his sins—starting with his political activities, to his new acquisition, the Board High School air, by which was meant a certain slowness and stupidity engendered by mental decay.*

The entire thing is one sentence, but it has the following clauses:

- a. Six weeks later Rajam came to Swaminathan's house to announce
- b. that he forgave him all his sins—starting with his political activities, to his new acquisition, the Board High School air
- c. by which was meant a certain slowness and stupidity engendered by mental decay.

<p>a. Six weeks later Rajam <u>came</u> to Swaminathan's house to announce</p>	<p>Independent Clause</p>
<p>b. that he <u>forgave</u> him all his sins—starting with his political activities, to his new acquisition, the Board High School air</p>	<p>subordinate noun clause, working here as the object to the verb announce in the independent clause.</p>
<p>c. by which was meant a certain slowness and stupidity engendered by mental decay.</p>	<p>is another subordinate clause working as an adjectival clause qualifying the noun “air” in (b)</p>

- For using any language, this knowledge is not essential.
- We have already seen what a clause is. Let us now resolve the following.

# What is an Independent Clause?

An independent clause has both subject and verb in it, so that structurally it does not depend upon another clause.

There can be no sentence without at least one independent clause.

So all simple sentences, which means sentences with only one clause each, are independent clauses actually.

- 1)
- a. Water freezes at zero degree centigrade.
  - b. Water boils at 100 degree centigrade.
  - c. Sun rises in the east.
  - d. Circling the airport for a long time in the sky, the plane was finally allowed to land.
  - e. All the discoveries and inventions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as from air crafts to pressure cookers, from landing on the moon to the atom bomb to personal computers, etc. have not made human beings happier.

- So long or short, all the examples cited in the above are simple sentences. They have only one verb and one subject each.

# ACTIVITY

1. Find all the independent clauses in the following paragraph, and then compare your answers with the ones given in the “Answers” section below.

*After making his exit from Albert Mission School in that theatrical manner (on the day following the strike), Swaminathan became so consistently stubborn that a few days later his father took him to the Board School and admitted him there. At first Swaminathan was rather uncertain of his happiness in the new school. But he excited the curiosity that all new-comers do, and found himself to his great satisfaction the centre of attraction in Second C. All his new class-mates, remarkably new faces, often clustered round him to see him and hear him talk. He had not yet picked the few that he would have liked to call his chums. He still believed that his Albert Mission set was intact, though, since the reopening in June, the set was not what it had been before. Sankar disappeared, and people said that his father had been transferred; Somu was not promoted, and that meant he was automatically excluded from the group, the law being inexorable in that respect; the Pea was promoted, but he returned to the class exactly three months late, and he was quite full up with medical certificates, explanations, and exemptions. He was a man of a hundred worries now, and passed his old friends like a stranger. Only Rajam and Mani were still intact as far as Swaminathan was concerned. Mani saw him every day. But Rajam had not spoken to him since the day when his political doings became known.*

# ANSWERS

## INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

- a. At first Swaminathan was rather uncertain of his happiness in the new school.
- b. All his new class-mates, remarkably new faces, often clustered round him to see him and hear him talk.
- c. Mani saw him every day.

- An independent clause can be long or short, can have many other phrases, etc. But it has only one verb with tense.
- Sometimes, however, two or more independent clauses can be joined together by words like ‘and’, ‘or’ or simply by ‘commas in a row’ such as in the following example,

- a. I came, I saw, I conquered.
- b. Sometimes, I have Idlis for breakfast, but sometimes I also like bread.
- c. European workers generally go to church on Sundays or they go to work for charity on these days.
- d. Mary called the check-in desk before leaving and she reached airport in time.

- The sentences above have independent clauses joined by conjunctions or by commas.
- Sentences of this kind are no longer simple sentences. Grammarians call them compound sentences.
- Compound sentences have, by definition more than one independent clause.

# ACTIVITY

2. Does the following paragraph have compound sentence, compare your answer with the one given in the answer section below.

*After making his exit from Albert Mission School in that theatrical manner (on the day following the strike), Swaminathan became so consistently stubborn that a few days later his father took him to the Board School and admitted him there. At first Swaminathan was rather uncertain of his happiness in the new school. But he excited the curiosity that all new-comers do, and found himself to his great satisfaction the centre of attraction in Second C. All his new classmates, remarkably new faces, often clustered round him to see him and hear him talk. He had not yet picked the few that he would have liked to call his chums. He still believed that his Albert Mission set was intact, though, since the reopening in June, the set was not what it had been before. Sankar disappeared, and people said that his father had been transferred; Somu was not promoted, and that meant he was automatically excluded from the group, the law being inexorable in that respect; the Pea was promoted, but he returned to the class exactly three months late, and he was quite full up with medical certificates, explanations, and exemptions. He was a man of a hundred worries now, and passed his old friends like a stranger. Only Rajam and Mani were still intact as far as Swaminathan was concerned. Mani saw him every day. But Rajam had not spoken to him since the day when his political doings became known.*

# ANSWERS

- a. He was a man of a hundred worries now, and passed his old friends like a stranger.

All other sentences in this paragraph are either simple or complex sentences.

**Thank you!**