



IIT Madras

ONLINE DEGREE

English – 1 (Basic English)
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Lecture No. 48
Complex Sentence – Part 2

Good afternoon, we began talking about complex sentences in the previous unit, and we spoke about rules that apply in complex sentences across clauses. Here, today we will talk about kinds of complex sentences and how to identify one kind, in this unit once again we will talk about how to identify different kinds of complex sentences and how to identify one unit among these sentences, let us go.

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NOUN CLAUSE



- We know that a complex sentence has a main clause and at least one sub-ordinate clause.
- A main clause necessarily has a noun phrase and at least one verb phrase, which has a verb in either present or in past tense.



We know that a complex sentence has a main clause and at least one subordinate clause, a main clause necessarily has a known phrase and at least one verb phrase which has a verb in either present or in past tense but sometimes even in the main clause the governing noun the noun that is most important may not be visible. Next.

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- But subordinate clause can be of many kinds, and may function in the sentence like a noun phrase, or noun, a verb phrase, or verb, an adjectival phrase, or an adjective, adverb or an adverbial phrase, etc.



Next. But subordinate clauses can be of many different kinds, main clause may not be of many different kinds because you have rigid rules that hold them together, a subordinate clause can be of many different kinds and may function in the sentence like either a noun phrase or noun, a verb phrase or verb and adjectival phrase or an adjective or as an adverbial phrase or an adverb.

All these possibilities exist so that in practice, you notice so many more elements; you have to ask yourself whether we are talking about adjective or adjectival phrase or about adjectival clause. The good thing is no matter what you ask yourself; the good thing is an adjectival clause works like an adjective, it does qualify a noun somewhere else in some other clause, that is why it is called an adjectival clause.

It is called an adverbial clause because somewhere else that clause identifies or modifies a verb, otherwise it will not be an adverbial clause, or it modifies an adjective so that it becomes an adverbial clause. Without these functions, we would not get a main clause or subordinate clause who have different functions and different types. Go next.

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- In other words, a clause can also function like a phrase, or a word, performing the function of its class, like an adjective, or an adverb, or a noun, or verb. In the following sentence, for example, the subordinate clause works like an adjective.



Only the wearer knows where shoe pinches.

Main clause	Subordinate clause
Only the wearer knows	where shoe pinches



In other words, a clause can also function like a phrase or a word, it can work like a sentence, it can work like a clause, a clause can also function like a phrase and a word, performing as a word and as a noun would perform the function of noun, so this entire clause can perform the function of a particular clause, it can either become an adjective or it can become an adverb or it can become a noun or a verb, noun, adjective, adverb, verb, they can become anything, any slot they can take depending upon exigencies of the situation of speech.

All right, for example, now look at the subordinate clause in the following sentence, how it works. Here you have a sentence, 'only the wearer knows', of course, this is the main clause, 'only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches'. What is the wearer know? Go to the next.

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- The sub-ordinate clause here works like a noun. It is the object to the verb “know” in the main clause. What do you know – you know “where shoes pinches”.



What does the wearer know? It definitely requires a noun after that, you have knowledge, you know a person, you know a solution, you know an address, you know your work, you know how to make others happy, you know a variety of things, but all of those variety of things together constitute a noun, so this is not enough to say that I know and therefore I do not have to go further.

"Know" in the main clause is a verb that requires an object, that object comes to it in the next clause. The next clause is, "where shoe pinches" in place of that clause "know" can also take something else, the speaker who says, 'I know', he need not say where shoe pinches or only the wearer knows the sentence need not be completed as wearer, where shoe pinches, the sentence can be completed even with a word, 'only the wearer knows mathematics', 'only the wearer knows his shoes', 'only the wearer knows where to buy this shoe from'.

So, "know" is a verb that requires an adjective without fail, it is a must requirement, it is a definite requirement, and because it is a definite requirement here, also you have to supply it with a relevant noun, a noun or a pronoun which fits the context. So, you can say only the wearer knows, what does the wearer know? "Where shoe pinches". Alright, go to the next.

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- Let us look at another example.



That the river is in spate here at this time of the year is well known.

- Here [That the river is in spate here at this time of the year] sub. noun clause functions like a noun which is the subject to the verb “is” within the main clause.



Let us look at another example that the river is in spate here at this time of the year is well known, everyone knows. What does everyone know? In this case, everyone knows that in the month of August in Bihar, all rivers swell, that is the same thing being said here, 'that the river is in spate here at this time of the year is well known'.

Now, what is the main clause here? Main clause here is, 'it is well known'. So, there is a slot, go to the next screen, there is a, come back please, there is a slot, there is a box which says box is well known, in the box you can put anything, you can say mathematics, you can see music, you can say film, you can songs, songs are well known, film is well known, magician is well known, but you will have to have something which is well known.

In this case and this should also function as the subject to the verb "is". So, in this case, what the speaker has done is, the speaker has taken a lot of words together in one clause, 'that the river is in spate here in this time of the year', so many words, roughly more than a dozen, more than a dozen words put together for one sentence, but it is put together for a purpose that this entire clause, that the river is in spate here at this time of the year is itself a clause which works like a word to become the subject of the verb "is" within the main clause.

You could as well have said it is well known rather than say it is well known; you are saying that the river is in spate here at this time of the year is well known. So, a clause can take the place of a word, a word can take the place of a clause, but so long as it is clause, it will be named after the part of speech of the word which it replaces. Because it replaces a noun because noun alone can

be the subject so here we have said that the river here, a river is in spate here at this time of the year is well-known.

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- The entire subordinate clause here functions like a simple word "It" which has become the subject of the sentence "[[It] is well-known]". The entire sentence could also be written or spoken as

It is well known that the river is in spate here at this time of the year.

*That this happens is well known.
It is well known that this happens.*



So, you can say that the entire subordinate clause here. What is this entire subordinate clause here? It is, 'it is well known that the river is in spate here at this time of the year'. So, this together will form the subject which I would say, 'it is well known' as I have written here, you could have, you could also put it this way rather than say, 'that this happens is well known', you can say, 'it is well known that this happens'. You could as well have said that this happens is well known.

We can as well say, we can you know put the sentence properly rather than emphasize. So, we can say it is well known, and then you can see that this happens. So, a word can become the subject; a phrase can become the subject, a clause can also become the subject of an entire clause, that a clause can become the subject of another a full sentence, so rather than say it is well known here we say, 'that this happens is well known'.

What happens? 'It is well known that the river is in spate here at this time of the year.' We can as well say, 'that the river is in spate here at this time of the year is well known'. So, this entire string of this the words this clause that the river is in spate here at this time of the year has been moved forward, and it replaces, it comes in place of "it", and because it comes in place of "it" which could have been the subject, so we say this is a noun clause, subordinate noun clause

which functions like the subject of "is", you always are subject of a verb, object of a verb so here subject is missing. Where is the subject? Subject is an entire clause here. Alright next.

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- So the subordinate clause [That the river is in spate here at this time of the year] is a noun clause which is the subject of the main clause "[] is well-known". So like a noun, or like a noun phrase, noun clause can also perform the function of a noun by becoming either subject or object of a subordinate clause.



So, the subordinate clause, 'that the river is in spate here at this time of the year' is a noun clause. What function does it do? It functions as the subject of the main clause; if we were using brackets we will say sentence bracket here, sentence, this is, these two outer brackets are brackets indicating sentences, and within the sentence, we have a noun or a noun phrase that works like the subject.

So, we could have said, "it is well known", this is an important point rather than say "it", please make a note of this point, this is an important point, that rather than use one single word "it" because of this exigencies of speech because of the situation there we have to give an entire clause, and we say, 'it is well known', rather than 'it is well known' we say 'that this happens, that the river at this time of the year swells', origin spate is well known that occupies the place of the subject, so you have clauses that can become subject of verb, that can become the object of verb, that can simply draw a match. All you have to do is to see if it is a subject which verb does it had; it is the subject of which verb.

Similarly, if you find it as an object, then you should ask yourself you know it is an object of which word, which word is qualified by this if you ask yourself these questions, the answer will be pretty simple because they are there. So, finally like a noun or like a noun phrase, a noun

clause can also perform all the functions of a noun by becoming either subject or object of the subordinate clause, alright next.

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ACTIVITY 1



Look at the following paragraph, and underline all subordinate clauses that work like a noun, whether subject or object of a verb.

'...You don't know what a great fellow Rajam is.' He told her the story of the first enmity between Rajam and Mani and the subsequent friendship. 'You know, he has a real police dress,' said Swaminathan. 'Is it? What does he want a police dress for?' asked granny. 'His father is the Police Superintendent. He is the master of every policeman here.' Granny was impressed. She said that it must be a tremendous office indeed. She then recounted the days when her husband, Swaminathan's grandfather, was a powerful Sub-Magistrate.



You can do this activity to become sure that you have understood it, you have got it, look at this sentence, look at the sentences in this paragraph and do the exercise, ask yourself which of these nouns, which of these clauses, I am sorry, which of these clauses is the main clause and which other clauses are subordinate clause? If you find a noun clause within the subordinate clause, please mark that. Today we have tried and done a survey of subordinate noun clause. Go to the next slide.

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ANSWERS

'.....You don't know what a great fellow Rajam is.' He told her the story of the first enmity between Rajam and Mani and the subsequent friendship. 'You know, he has a real police dress,' said Swaminathan. 'Is it? What does he want a police dress for?' asked granny. 'His father is the Police Superintendent. He is the master of every policeman here.' Granny was impressed. She said that it must be a tremendous office indeed. She then recounted the days when her husband, Swaminathan's grandfather, was a powerful Sub-Magistrate.



Here, in this manner, so 'you do not know what a great fellow Rajam is.' Here, what is the principle clause? Principle clause is, main clause is you do not know. What is the subordinate clause? What a great fellow Rajam is, you know of this principle clause you do not know, "know" is a verb which requires some noun. So, you can say you do not know, look at another sentence. 'You know he has a real police dress'. 'You know' you know is not a kind of a sentence, though it is small, only two words but it is not the kind of sentence which would be happy with you know x, you can say x, but you know by themselves do not constitute a good and comprehensive sentence.

So, we say, 'you know he has a real police dress.' What is the object of "know?" That he has a real police dress, said Swaminathan, 'what does he want a police dress for?' asked granny. So, you know the first part, what does you want a police dress for is the subordinates clause, which is object to a noun object to a verb. Which verb? Granny asked. Granny asked what? She asked, what does he want a police dress for, after all, he is a boy, he could play with other things, granny has never heard any boy wearing police dress, so that is why this question.

Look at another complex sentence with a nominal subordinate clause, noun coordinate clause. He says, 'granny was impressed, and after that, this is where the subordinate clauses are.' She said, the main clause, that it must be a tremendous office; indeed, this becomes a complex sentence. She said, now said requires an object, you said what to whom. So, she said that it must

be a tremendous office indeed. So, only up to said that she said something. What is that something? The space of that particular room.

She then recounted the days when her husband Swaminathan's grandfather, this is not, in my opinion, a subordinate nominal clause. But the point here, the idea here is you become perfect in anything only by doing exercises so I would suggest, strongly suggest do it once yourself and check with the given units and it will be obvious, next.

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ANSWERS



	Main clause	Sub Noun clause	Object to
1.	you don't know	what a great fellow Rajam is	know
2.	You know,	he has a real police dress	know
3.	asked granny	What does he want a police dress for?	asked
4.	She said	that it must be a tremendous office indeed	said



We have done it in the table for you. You do not know what a great failure Rajam is object to "know". So, it requires an object, "know" requires an object. Where does it come from? Here, he has a real police dress. Next, is, asked granny, what does he want a police dress for? Asked granny, asked granny is the main clause, the subordinate clause is what does he want a police dress for?

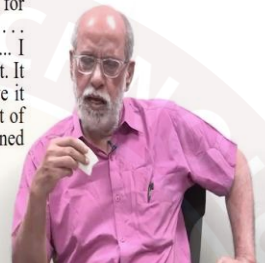
Here is the clause, what is the main clause? Asked granny. What is the subordinate clause? What does he want a police dress for, which is a subordinate noun clause object to the verb asked in the main clause. Next, she said that it must be a tremendous office. Indeed, she said what, say is again a verb which requires a noun, in this case, so same thing with the next example.

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ACTIVITY 2



Do you know how many marks he gets in Arithmetic?' 'He gets all the marks, does he, child?' asked granny. 'No, silly. He gets ninety marks out of one hundred.' 'Good. But you must also try and get marks like him. . . You know, Swami, your grandfather used to frighten the examiners with his answers sometimes. When he answered a question, he did it in a tenth of the time that others took to do it. And then, his answers would be so powerful that his teachers would give him two hundred marks sometimes. . . When he passed his F.A. he got such a big medal! I wore it as a pendant for years till—When did I remove it? Yes, when your aunt was born. . . No, it wasn't your aunt. . . It was when your father was born. . . I remember on the tenth day of confinement. . . No, no. I was right. It was when your aunt was born. Where is that medal now? I gave it away to your aunt—and she melted it and made four bangles out of it. The fool! And such flimsy bangles too! I have always maintained that she is the worst fool in our family.



You can again look at it and ask yourself to split the, ask yourself if is a complex sentence, what is a complex sentence? A complex sentence may or may not have other things it definitely has at least two clauses, one of which is a main clause, and the other is a subordinate clause. Subordinate clause depends upon other clauses for completion of meaning main clause does not that is about the only difference.

Main clause is also called therefore independent clause or principle clause where a subordinate clause is always called subordinate clause the reason is that the subordinate clause by itself cannot stand. Look at the activity and do it, we hope that you will, you are doing the activities because nothing else can make you knowledgeable in your subject.

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ANSWERS



	Main clause	Sub Noun clause	Object to
1.	Do you know	how many marks he gets in Arithmetic?	know
2.	asked granny	He gets all the marks	asked
3.		does he, child?	asked

Main clause	Sub Noun clause	Complement to
It was	when your father was born	was



So, compare your answer with the answer given here.

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Thank you



So, before I say thank you, let me summarize. The point I have tried to make is that language like any other natural entity has also been made up of small units, a big unit taking a smaller unit that small unit taking something still smaller, that something is small takes something else which is still smaller, you go on as somebody says said it is turtles all the way, you will get, you will go as deep or as high as you please to with the help of answers those are, that are waiting to be discovered by you.

But, today we have tried and said what is a complex sentence, what is a noun clause, how does it go along with the subordinate clause, how we can rectify ourselves, where there is a mistake, if not how we can keep happy and going. Thank you very much. Have a good day.

