



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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Describing Clauses and Sentence

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Sentence and Clause

- Sentence is a structural unit in languages.
 - Raju likes flowers.
 - Raju knows that Sarita loves flowers.
 - Raju thinks that Sarita knows that Seema likes Mohan.
 - Raju likes to eat pizza with his friends in the garden in the evening after sunset for group work.
- What is a clause and what are the differences between a sentence and clause.

- A sentence is essentially a clause too. However, a sentence has an independent status, and a clause appears dependent.
- Clauses can have different structural functions in a sentence.
 - They can work like nouns as in subject, object or an adjunct positions.
 - They may work like an adjective for the purpose of a description;
 - They may work as an adverb for modifications.

Clauses as Nouns

- As nouns, they can be subject or object to a verb.
 - [For Raju to get a good night sleep] is a bliss.
 - Raju knows [how to work on a computer].
 - Raju wants [to go home].
 - Raju wants [Sarita to go home].

Clauses as Adjectives or Adverbs

- A clause can also have an adjectival function, or in an adverbial function.
 - Raju [who lives in Chennai] is a teacher of English.
 - Raju is a teacher in Chennai [which is the capital of Tamil Nadu].
 - [As far as rain is concerned], it is likely to begin in July.
 - [Given the age of the actor [who worked in the many Hindi movies last year]], he looks much younger.