

## Clauses in English Grammar

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate (a verb). Clauses can be categorized into two main types: independent clauses and dependent (or subordinate) clauses. Each type of clause serves a different purpose in a sentence.

### 1. Independent Clauses

#### Definition:

An independent clause, also known as a main clause, can stand alone as a complete sentence. It has a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.

#### Examples:

1. I enjoy reading.
  - Explanation: This is a complete sentence with a subject ("I") and a verb ("enjoy").
2. She runs every morning.
  - Explanation: The subject ("She") and the verb ("runs") form a complete thought.
3. They moved to a new house.
  - Explanation: "They" is the subject, and "moved" is the verb, making it a complete sentence.
4. The sun sets in the west.
  - Explanation: The subject "The sun" and the verb "sets" form a complete idea.
5. We had pizza for dinner.
  - Explanation: "We" is the subject, and "had" is the verb, creating a complete thought.
6. He works at a bank.
  - Explanation: "He" (subject) and "works" (verb) convey a complete idea.
7. The movie was interesting.
  - Explanation: "The movie" is the subject, and "was" is the verb, making a complete sentence.
8. She sings beautifully.
  - Explanation: The subject "She" and the verb "sings" form a complete thought.
9. The dog barked loudly.
  - Explanation: "The dog" (subject) and "barked" (verb) create a complete idea.
10. I finished my homework.
  - Explanation: The subject "I" and the verb "finished" form a complete thought.

### 2. Dependent (Subordinate) Clauses

#### Definition:

A dependent clause, also known as a subordinate clause, cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. It depends on an independent clause to give it meaning. A dependent clause often starts with a subordinating conjunction (e.g., because, although, if, when, while).

#### Examples:

1. Because I was tired, I went to bed early.  
- Explanation: "Because I was tired" is a dependent clause that explains why I went to bed early.
2. Although it was raining, we went for a walk.  
- Explanation: "Although it was raining" is a dependent clause that provides a contrast to going for a walk.
3. If you study hard, you will pass the exam.  
- Explanation: "If you study hard" is a condition for passing the exam.
4. When the bell rings, the students leave the classroom.  
- Explanation: "When the bell rings" indicates the time when the students leave.
5. Because she is kind, everyone likes her.  
- Explanation: "Because she is kind" explains why everyone likes her.
6. Unless you hurry, you will miss the bus.  
- Explanation: "Unless you hurry" sets a condition for missing the bus.
7. Since it's your birthday, I'll bake a cake.  
- Explanation: "Since it's your birthday" provides the reason for baking a cake.
8. Even though he was late, he finished the project.  
- Explanation: "Even though he was late" contrasts with finishing the project.
9. While she was cooking, the phone rang.  
- Explanation: "While she was cooking" describes what was happening when the phone rang.
10. Because I forgot my keys, I couldn't get into the house.  
- Explanation: "Because I forgot my keys" explains why I couldn't get into the house.

### 3. Relative Clauses

**Definition:**

A relative clause is a type of dependent clause that starts with a relative pronoun (who, whom, whose, which, that) and provides additional information about a noun in the main clause.

**Examples:**

1. The book that I borrowed is on the table.  
- Explanation: "that I borrowed" is a relative clause providing more information about "the book."
2. She is the teacher who inspired me.  
- Explanation: "who inspired me" gives more information about "the teacher."
3. The house, which is painted blue, belongs to my aunt.  
- Explanation: "which is painted blue" adds details about "the house."
4. I met a man whose brother is a famous actor.  
- Explanation: "whose brother is a famous actor" tells us more about "the man."
5. The car that broke down is mine.  
- Explanation: "that broke down" specifies which car.
6. The artist whom we admire has a new exhibit.  
- Explanation: "whom we admire" provides more information about "the artist."
7. This is the movie that I was telling you about.  
- Explanation: "that I was telling you about" adds information about "the movie."
8. The cake, which she baked, was delicious.  
- Explanation: "which she baked" adds details about "the cake."
9. The student who won the prize is my cousin.  
- Explanation: "who won the prize" provides more information about "the student."
10. The dog that barks at night belongs to the neighbors.  
- Explanation: "that barks at night" specifies which dog.

#### 4. Noun Clauses

**Definition:**

A noun clause functions as a noun in a sentence. It can act as a subject, object, or complement and often begins with words like that, what, whatever, who, whom, whoever, etc.

**Examples:**

1. What he said was surprising.  
- Explanation: "What he said" is the subject of the sentence.
2. I don't know where she lives.  
- Explanation: "where she lives" is the object of the verb "know."
3. The fact that he lied shocked everyone.  
- Explanation: "that he lied" is a noun clause acting as a subject.
4. She believes that he is honest.  
- Explanation: "that he is honest" is the object of the verb "believes."
5. I wonder whether he will come.  
- Explanation: "whether he will come" is the object of the verb "wonder."
6. Whoever wins will get the prize.  
- Explanation: "Whoever wins" is the subject of the verb "will get."
7. The question is whether we should go.  
- Explanation: "whether we should go" is the complement in the sentence.
8. I don't understand why she left.  
- Explanation: "why she left" is the object of the verb "understand."
9. That she passed the exam was a relief.  
- Explanation: "That she passed the exam" is the subject of the sentence.
10. He told me what happened.  
- Explanation: "what happened" is the object of the verb "told."

## 5. Adverbial Clauses

### Definition:

An adverbial clause functions as an adverb, modifying a verb, adjective, or another adverb. It usually answers questions like how, when, where, why, and under what conditions. It often starts with subordinating conjunctions like because, since, if, when, although, etc.

### Examples:

1. She sings better than he does.  
- Explanation: "than he does" is an adverbial clause modifying the verb "sings."
2. We will leave when the rain stops.  
- Explanation: "when the rain stops" tells us when we will leave.
3. Because he was late, he missed the bus.  
- Explanation: "Because he was late" explains why he missed the bus.
4. If you study hard, you will succeed.  
- Explanation: "If you study hard" sets a condition for success.
5. Although it was cold, we went outside.  
- Explanation: "Although it was cold" contrasts with going outside.
6. After she finished her homework, she went to bed.  
- Explanation: "After she finished her homework" indicates when she went to bed.
7. Since it's raining, we'll stay inside.  
- Explanation: "Since it's raining" explains why we'll stay inside.
8. Wherever you go, I will follow.  
- Explanation: "Wherever you go" tells us where I will follow.
9. He worked until he finished the task.  
- Explanation: "until he finished the task," tells us how long he worked.
10. As she was walking, she saw a rainbow.  
- Explanation: "As she was walking" indicates the timing of when she saw the rainbow.