# Main types of clauses

## Noun clause:

A **noun clause** (also called *nominal clause*) is a dependent clause that plays the role of a <u>noun</u>.
A noun clause can function as:

- A subject.
- An object.

<u>EXAMPLES :</u>

- Whoever saves a pregnant woman is a hero. (=<u>Subject</u>)
- I think that I can be a great doctor. (=<u>Object</u>)
- Do you know what medication you're taking ? (=Object)

## Adverb clause:

An **adverb clause** (also called *adverbial clause*) is a dependent clause which functions as an <u>adverb</u>.
There are many types of adverb clauses:

| Type | Example |
|------|---------|
| Place | I was not satisfied with the hospital where I was following up last year. |
| Time | My periods stopped when I was 50 years old. |
| Manner | The surgery didn't go as planned. |
| Reason | I started taking the pill because I didn't want to get pregnant. |
| Purpose | I do not smoke so that I do not end up with a cancer. |
| Concession | Although she was 54 years old, she was surprisingly able to get pregnant. |
| Condition | If you take a pain killer two days before your period, the dysmenorrhea will be less severe. |
| Comparison | A spermicidal gel will not protect you as well as an intrauterine contraceptive device. |

## Ajective clause:

An **adjective clause** (also called *adjectival clause*) is a dependent clause which modifies
a <u>noun</u> and usually begins with a <u>relative pronoun</u> (*which, that, who, whom, whose*) or a <u>relative adverb</u>
(*where, when, why*).

<u>EXAMPLES :</u>

- *Students* who work hard become the best doctors.
  - ⇨ *The adjective clause "<u>who work hard</u>" modifies the noun "<u>Students</u>"*
- *Leila,* whose mother died from breast cancer at a relatively young age, has to undergo screening mammography pretty frequently.
  - ⇨ *The adjective clause "<u>whose mother died from breast cancer at a relatively young age</u>" modifies the noun "<u>Leila</u>"*
- *The pill* which was prescribed to me has too many side effects.
  - ⇨ *The adjective clause "<u>which was prescribed to me</u>" modifies the noun "<u>The pill</u>"*

There are two types of adjective clauses:

- ## **Restrictive clauses:**
  Also called **defining clauses**, they give *essential information* about the noun.
  These clauses <u>do not require commas.</u>

  - The woman <span style="color:red">who gave birth to the conjoined twins</span> is in good health.
  - The vaginal discharge <span style="color:red">that I was complaining from last week</span> has disappeared.


- ## **Non restrictive clauses:**
  Also called **non-defining clauses**, they give *extra or non-essential information* about the noun.
  These clauses <u>require commas.</u>

  - My first child, <span style="color:red">whose name is Sara</span>, was born with intrauterine growth restriction.
  - Speculum examination, <span style="color:red">which is a part of the gynecologic physical examination</span>, can be painful in some cases.