

Other dependent clauses

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Other dependent clauses

Nick Riches

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Girls and Boys, by Blur

(We're) Looking for Girls who are boys

Who like boys to be girls

Who do boys like they're girls

Who do girls like they're boys.

Always should be someone you really love.

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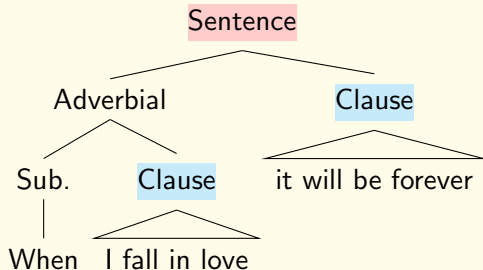
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Recap on adverbial clauses



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Dependent clauses can come inside any other function:

S, Od, Oi, Cs, Co, P-Mod

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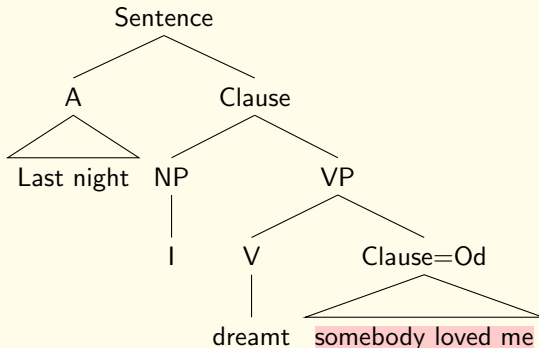
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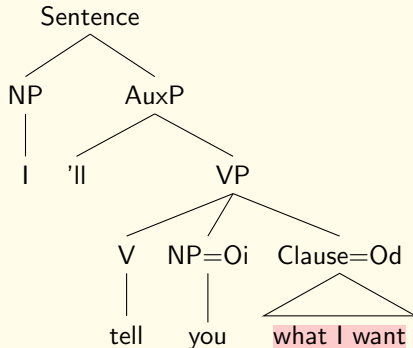
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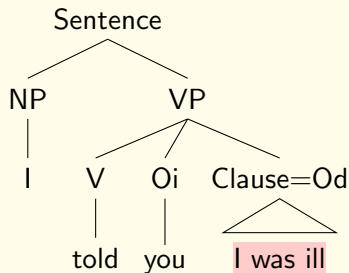
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The SOMETHING test

It may be easier to see the function of the dependent clause if you substitute it with 'something', 'somebody' etc.

- (1) Last night I dreamt SOMETHING → that somebody loved me
- (2) I'll tell you SOMETHING → what I want
- (3) I told you SOMETHING → I was ill.

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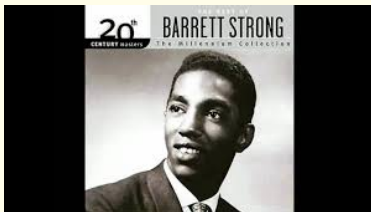
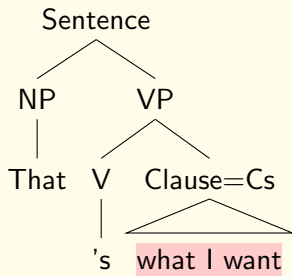
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Money ...



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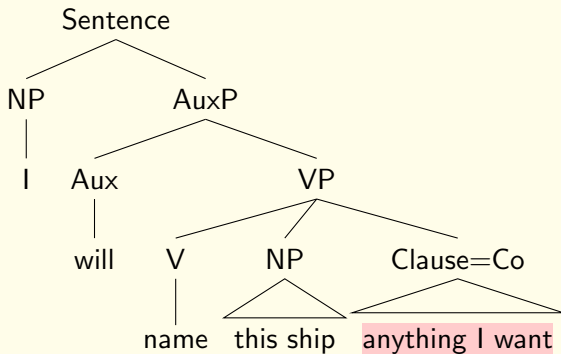
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Identify the subordinate clauses in the following sentences.
What is their function?

1. I think I'm going crazy
2. Give the food to whoever wants it
3. You are everything I'd want in a woman
4. I like that she never loses her cool
5. You can be whoever you want to be

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Identify the subordinate clauses in the following sentences:

1. I think I'm going crazy : Od
2. Give the food to whoever wants it : Oi
3. You are everything I'd want in a woman : Cs
4. I like that she never loses her cool : Od
5. You can be whoever you want to be : Cs

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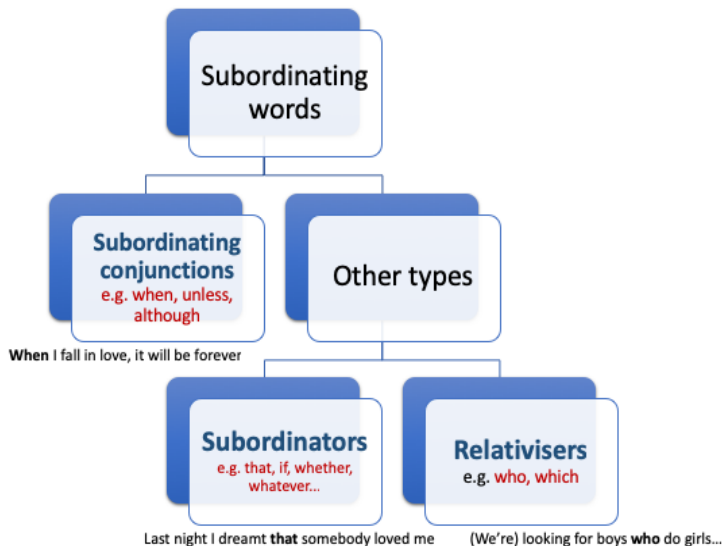
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NB all are labelled **s** under the LARSP framework.

The **subordinating conjunction** introduces a dependent (subordinate) clause inside an ADVERBIAL

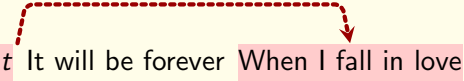
(4) [**When** [I fall in love Cl.] ADV] it will be forever

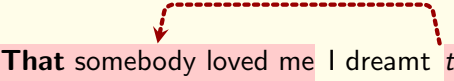
A **subordinator** introduces a dependent (subordinate) clause in other functions (S, Od, Oi, Cs, Co, P-mod)

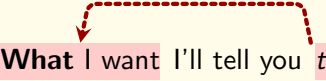
(5) Last night I dreamt
[**that** [somebody loved me Cl.] Od]

Subordinators

Subordinators are less successful 'pickup trucks' than subordinating conjunctions.

(6)  **t** It will be forever **When I fall in love**

(7) ??  **That somebody loved me** I dreamt **t**

(8) ??  **What I want** I'll tell you **t**

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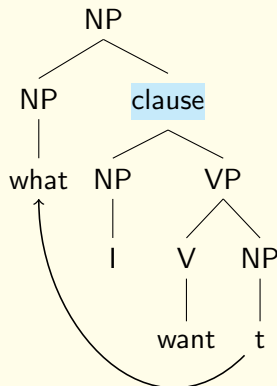
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Subordinators

Money, It's ...



Could be classified as a subordinator (because it has a subordinating function), or pronoun (because it stands in place of a moved NP)

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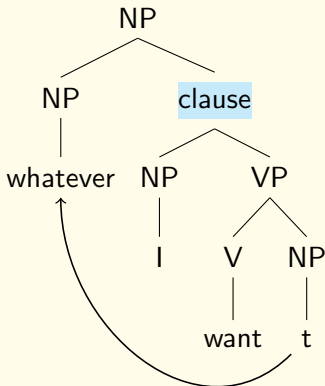
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I'll name this ship ...



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But not all subordinators behave like this . . .
Last night I dreamt (that) somebody loved me.

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Add subordinating words to the following sentences. In which cases are the subordinating words optional?

1. He said he was working very hard
2. You come to the party is no concern of mine
3. The house he bought was falling apart
4. I still don't know the reason he dropped out of school

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Add subordinating words to the following sentences. In which cases are the subordinating words optional?

1. He said **that** he was working very hard
2. **Whether** you come to the party is no concern of mine
3. The house **that/which** he bought was falling apart
4. I still don't know the reason **why** he dropped out of school

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(9) [That she passed the exam _S] surprised her teacher.

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(9) [That she passed the exam _S] surprised her teacher.

(10) **It** surprised her teacher [that she passed the exam]

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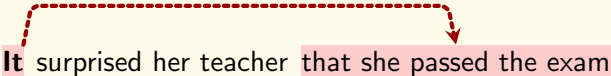
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(9) [That she passed the exam _S] surprised her teacher.

(10) **It** surprised her teacher [that she passed the exam]

(11)



It surprised her teacher **that she passed the exam**

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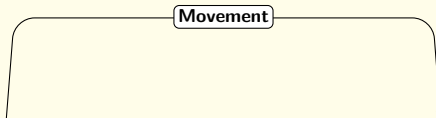
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Movement



The diagram illustrates the concept of 'Movement' in syntax. A horizontal line with a box labeled 'Movement' in the center has two arrows. One arrow starts from the box and points down to the word 't' in the sentence 'Jane donated t to the library'. The other arrow starts from the box and points down to the beginning of the phrase '[an old book about the history of equine surgery]' in the same sentence. This indicates that the heavy phrase has moved from its original position (marked by 't') to the end of the sentence.

Jane donated *t* to the library [an old book about the history of equine surgery]_{in}.

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- (12) I feel about weddings [the way cats feel about waterslides] (Nell Frizelle, Guardian)

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(13)

I feel **t** about weddings **the way cats feel about waterslides**^{ors}



But do cats hate waterslides?

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Anelka's being late annoyed me ⇒
That Anelka was late annoyed me ⇒
It annoyed me that Anelka was late

- ▶ The candidate's ability to answer difficult questions impressed the interviewers
- ▶ Algernon's lateness frustrates me
- ▶ Language impaired children's omission of tense morphemes is very interesting
- ▶ Fatima's perfect command of English is surprising, given her background

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- ▶ That [Clause the candidate couldn't answer difficult questions] impressed the interviewers ⇒
It impressed the interviewers that [Clause the candidate couldn't answer difficult questions]
- ▶ That [Clause Algernon was late] frustrates me ⇒
It frustrates me that [Clause Algernon was late]
- ▶ That [Clause language-impaired children omit tense] is very interesting ⇒
It's very interesting that [Clause language-impaired children omit tense]
- ▶ That [Clause Fatima speaks perfect English] is surprising ⇒
It's surprising that [Clause Fatima speaks perfect English]

Other dependent
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Nick Riches

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DCs as comp. of
vb.

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What is a P-mod?

A phrase which comes after a noun and modifies it.

(14) I found the **book** [under the sofa]

(15) I saw a **man** [with the wooden leg]

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Clauses can also come in postmodifier position

(16) She never gave me a **reason** [why she arrived late]

(17) I didn't believe Giles' **claim** [that Sally ate the chocolate cake]

(18) I found the **book** [that was under the sofa]

(19) I saw a **man** [who had a wooden leg]

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(20) I found the **book** [that was under the sofa]

(21) I saw a **man** [who had a wooden leg]

These are “relative” clauses.

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Girls who are boys. . .

(We're) looking for girls

who are boys

who like boys to be girls

who do boys like they're girls

who do girls like they're boys

Always should be someone

(who) you really love

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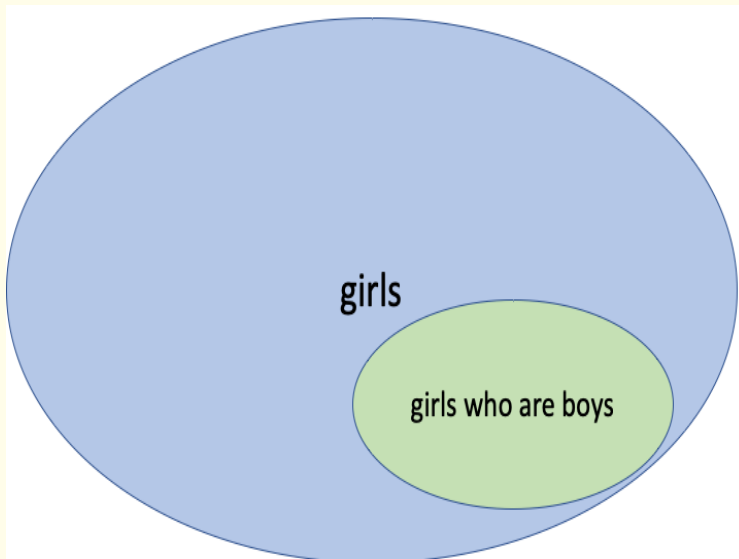
Relative clauses in research

EXERCISE

Homework

The restrictive / non-restrictive distinction

Restrictive relative clauses take a set of entities and restrict them.



Other dependent clauses

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The restrictive / non-restrictive distinction

- (22) The Paris which is in Texas is warmer than the Paris which is in France (restrictive relative clauses)
- (23) Paris, which is the capital of France, is a lovely city (non-restrictive relative clauses)

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Nick Riches

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Properties of relative clauses

1. They are headed by a **relative pronoun** (who, that, which).
2. They can contain **unusual word orders** (e.g. *There's the cat_{OBJ} I_{SUB} saw_{VERB}*)
3. They can **split Subjects from Verbs**

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Case-marking on pronouns

(24) She_{NOM} likes her_{ACC}

And relative pronouns

(25) There's the man who/whom_{ACC} he saw

(26) There's the man who/whom_{NOM} saw him

Properties of relative clauses

Animacy distinction on pronouns

(27) She likes it

And relative pronouns

(28) There's the man that/who I saw.

(29) I found the money that/who I dropped.

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Properties of relative clauses

Occasionally the relative clause can be omitted

(30) I found the money (that) I dropped

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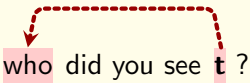
Res./non-res. dist.

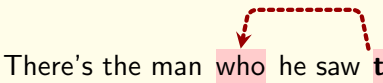
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'Movement' of the pronoun

(31)  **who** did you see **t** ?

(32)  There's the man **who** he saw **t**

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Unusual word orders

(33) There's the man who OBJ. I SUBJ. saw V.

(34) There's the fish that OBJ. she SUBJ. ate V.

Splitting subjects from verbs

(35) The man [who I saw] was happy

Relative clauses are very widely used in linguistic research because:

1. They vary in interesting ways across languages
2. In some languages they allow you create simple and complex versions of the same sentence **WITHOUT MAKING ANY CHANGES TO THE WORDS IN THE SENTENCE**
3. They are very sensitive to overall linguistic ability. Language-impaired individuals find relative clauses particularly difficult to process.

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(36) There's the dog that chased the cat

(37) There's the cat that chased the dog

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Test of Reception of Grammar

The girl that's chasing the horse is big



1



2



3



4

Q3

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Res./non-res. dist.

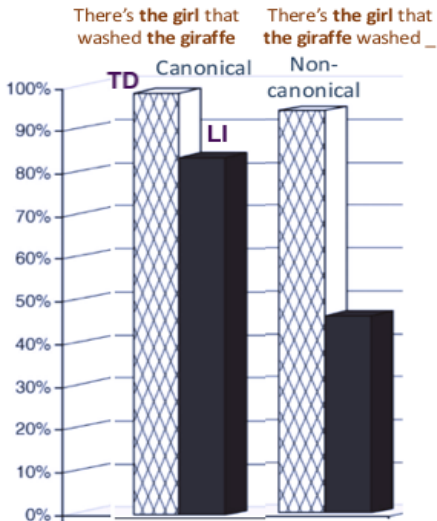
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Novogrodksy & Friedmann, 2006.



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EXERCISE

Rewrite the following sentences using relative clauses

- ▶ The man wore a hat. He had a beard
- ▶ The policeman chased the dog. It was carrying sausages.
- ▶ The boy won the lottery. His cat was run over.
- ▶ The park bench has been vandalised. I first kissed my girlfriend there.

Other dependent clauses

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- ▶ The man [Relative Cl. that had a beard] wore a hat
- ▶ The policeman chased the dog [Relative Cl. that was carrying sausages]
- ▶ The boy [Relative Cl. whose cat was run over] won the lottery
- ▶ The park bench [Relative Cl. where I first kissed my girlfriend] has been vandalised

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Dependent clauses in Post-modifier Position

Focus on relative clauses

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What is unusual about the popular song lyric

'Is you is, or is you ain't my baby?'

LOUIS JORDAN

IS YOU IS OR IS YOU AINT MY BABY



FEATURES...

IS YOU IS OR IS YOU AINT MY BABY
SATURDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

G I JIVE