

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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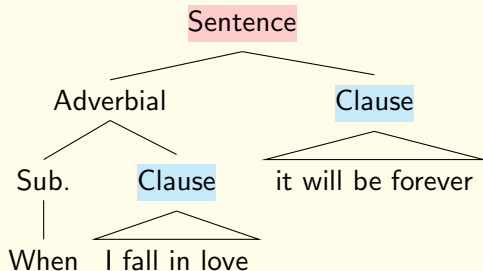
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Dependent clauses can come inside any other function:

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

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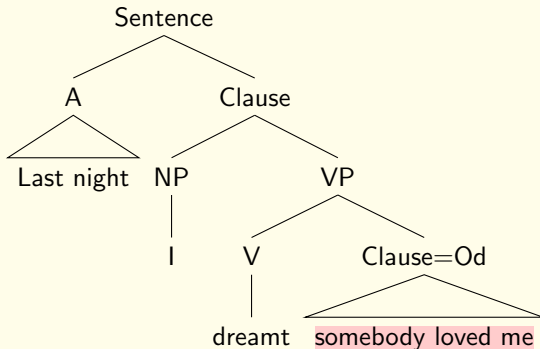
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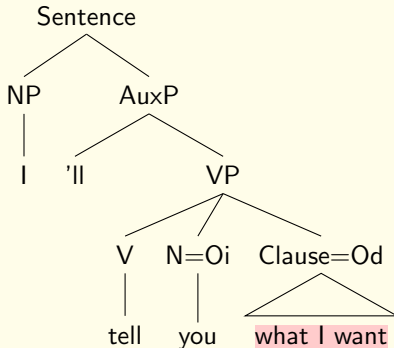
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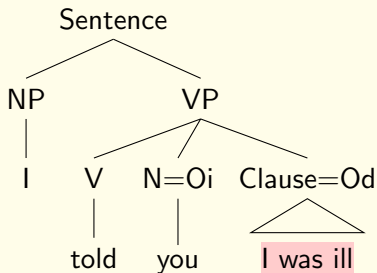
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The SOMETHING test

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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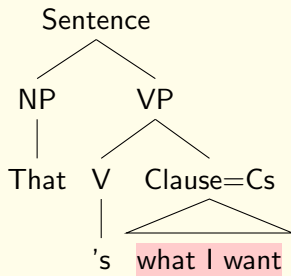
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Money ...



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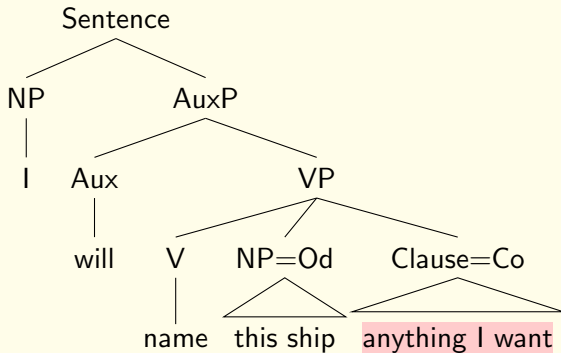
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Identify the subordinate clauses in the following sentences.
What is their function?

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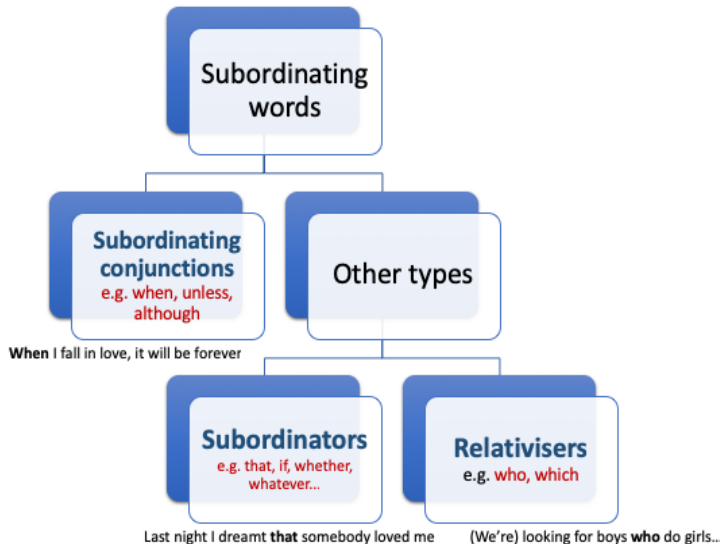
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NB all are labelled **s** under the LARSP framework.

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

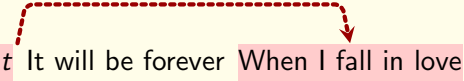
(4) [**When** [I fall in love Cl.] ADV] it will be forever

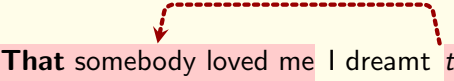
A **subordinator** introduces a dependent (subordinate) clause in other functions (S, Od, Oi, Cs, Co, P-mod)

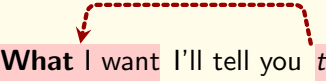
(5) Last night I dreamt
[**that** [somebody loved me Cl.] Od]

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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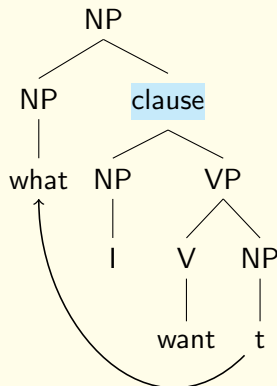
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Money, It's ...



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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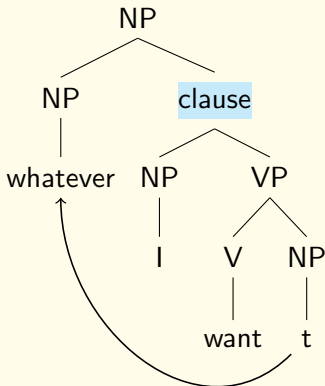
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I'll name this ship ...



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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?

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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

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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

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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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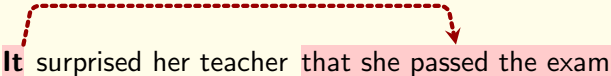
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Example

(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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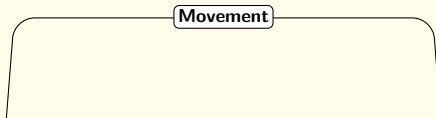
Relative clauses in research

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Heavy phrase shift

Movement



The diagram illustrates the concept of 'Movement' in syntax. A horizontal line with a box labeled 'Movement' in the center has two vertical lines extending downwards from its ends. From the left vertical line, a curved arrow points down to the word 't' in the sentence 'Jane donated t to the library'. From the right vertical line, a curved arrow points down to the start of the phrase '[an old book about the history of equine surgery]' in the same sentence. The phrase in brackets is highlighted with a pink background.

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]

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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]

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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]

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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]

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Dependent clauses as a complement of the verb (Od, Oi, Cs, Co)

Dependent clauses in Subject Position

Dependent clauses in Post-modifier Position

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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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Other types of dependent clause

Dependent clauses as a complement of the verb (Od, Oi, Cs, Co)

Dependent clauses in Subject Position

Dependent clauses in Post-modifier Position

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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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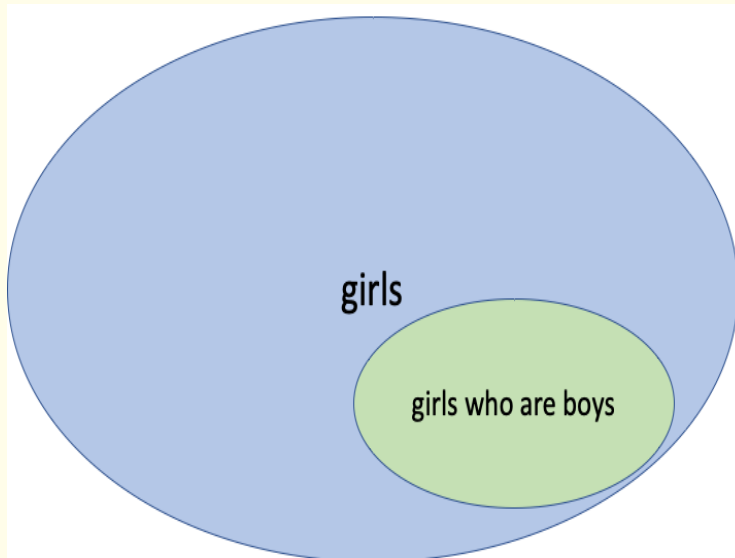
Relative clauses in research

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The restrictive / non-restrictive distinction

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



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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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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} / _{SUBJ} saw_{VERB}*)
3. They can **split Subjects from Verbs**
The cat [that chased the dog] was very fierce

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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

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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.

Properties of relative clauses

Occasionally the relative clause can be omitted

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

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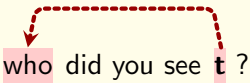
Res./non-res. dist.

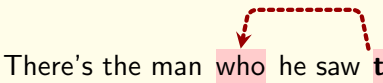
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'Movement' of the pronoun

(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 cat [that chased the dog] was very fierce

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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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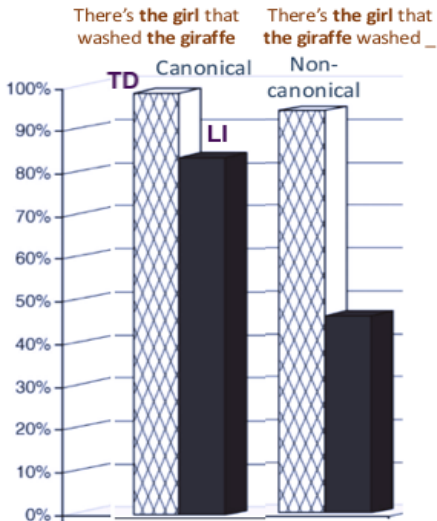
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Novogrodksy & Friedmann, 2006.



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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.

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- The man [Relative Cl. that had a beard] wore a hat

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- ▶ The man [Relative Cl. that had a beard] wore a hat
- ▶ The policement chased the dog [Relative Cl. that was carrying sausages]

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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

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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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Choose a word, and give a definition using relative clauses

cup

dolphin

angel

flower

glass

weed

jelly

whale

deer

antelope

fairy

mousse

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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

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