

0.1 Holiday exercise

Here are the lyrics for the Song, A Boy Named Sue, (click [here](#) for a version on YouTube). Read through the lyrics and do the following;

1. Underline the dependent clauses
2. Write notes saying the function they fulfil in the sentence, e.g. are they postmodifiers, objects etc.
3. Put a square around subordinating words, and circle around coordinating words (or use a colour-coding scheme, e.g. pink for subordinating words / yellow for coordinating words)

I have created online Word documents in OneDrive for you to work on. Could the BScs work on [this document](#), and could the MScs work on [this document](#)?

In addition, for **!!extra points!!** could you identify the following

1. A modal verb expressing epistemic modality
2. A modal verb expressing deontic modality
3. An auxiliary verb used to express a habitual event
4. An indirect object
5. An object complement

Well, my daddy left home when I was three

Well, my daddy left home when I was three
Adv. Clause

And he didn't leave much to ma and me

No dependent clause. Clause is conjoined to previous clause using coordinator **and**

Just this old guitar and a empty bottle of booze

No dependent clause

Now, I don't blame him 'cause he run and hid

'cause he run and hid looks like an adverbial clause, with *(be)cause* used as a subordinating conjunction. But notice how it is not moveable, e.g. ? *(be)cause he run and hid, I don't blame him*. This is a really odd sentence. I would say *'cause he run and hid* behaves partially like an adverbial clause. This unusual sentence structure might possibly reflect the dialect that Johnny Cash is singing in.

But the meanest thing that he ever did

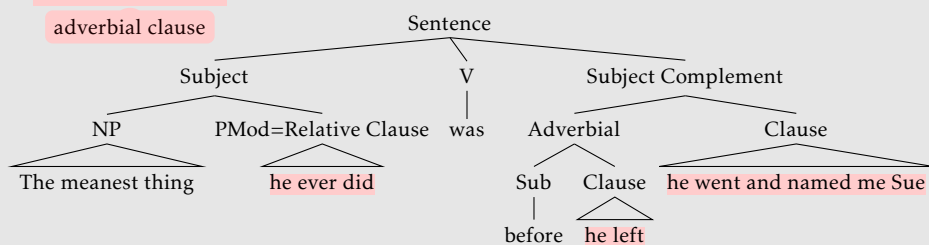
But the meanest thing **that** he ever did

Relative clause modifying *thing*

Relative clause. It is NON-CANONICAL. *The meanest thing* is the Object of the verb *did*. He is the Subject. So the order of the sentence is OBJECT+SUBJECT+VERB. *That* is a relative pronoun.

Was before he left, he went and named me Sue

Was **before** he left. The entire sentence from *but* has the following structure.



All dependent clauses have been shown in pink.

Well, he musta (must have) thought that was quite a joke

Well, he musta thought **that was quite a joke**

Direct Object

Note, *that* is a pronoun referring to act of naming the boy 'Sue'. It is not actually a subordinator.

And it got a lot of laughs from a' lots of folk

No dependent clause. The clause is lined to the previous clause using the coordinator **and**

It seems I had to fight my whole life through

Okay, this is a weird one. It looks as if there is a dependent clause; (*that*) *I had to fight ...*. This is interpretable as the Subject of *seems*, e.g. *That I had to fight my whole life through seems unfair*. But note that there is no complement of *seems* (e.g. *unfair*) in this sentence. Also the chunk *It seems* is movable round the sentence, e.g. *I had to fight my whole life through, it seems*. It does in fact behave like an Adverbial. Linguists describe expressions such as *It seems* as 'parentheticals'. Though they seem to give the sentence a Main Clause - Dependent Clause structure, they behave more like adverbials which are 'added on'

Some gal would giggle and I'd get red

No dependent clause

And some guy'd laugh and I'd bust his head

No dependent clause. The clause is introduced by a coordinating conjunction, *and*.

I tell ya, life ain't easy for a boy named Sue

This sentence could be interpreted as having a dependent clause, e.g. *I tell you* (that) *life ain't easy for a boy named Sue*. However, note the comma after *I tell ya*, and note that it can also be used at the end of the sentence, e.g. *life ain't easy for a boy named Sue, I tell ya*. *I tell ya* is another parenthetical. It looks as if the sentence has a Main Clause - Dependent Clause structure, but *I tell ya* behaves more like an Adverbial.

Well, I grew up quick and I grew up mean

Well, I grew up quick and I grew up mean

2 coordinated clauses

My fist got hard and my wits got keen

My fist got hard and my wits got keen 2 coordinated clauses

I'd roam from town to town to hide my shame

No dependent clause

But I made me a vow to the moon and stars

No dependent clause. The clause is joined to the previous clause using the coordinating conjunction *But*

I'd search the honkytonks and bars

No dependent clause

And kill that man that give me that awful name

The sentence begins with coordinator *and*. So we have two coordinated sentences; *Id' search*

the honkytonks and bars (and) *kill that man that gave me that awful name*

In addition, there is a relative clause; And kill that man **that** gave me that awful name

Relative clause modifying *man*

That is a relative pronoun.

Well, it was Gatlinburg in mid July

No dependent clause

And I just hit town and my throat was dry

2 coordinated clauses; *And I just hit town* (and) *my throat was dry* No dependent clause.

I thought I'd stop and have myself a brew

Dependent clause in Direct Object position: I thought **I'd stop and have myself a brew**

Dir. Object of *thought*

At an old saloon on a street of mud

No dependent clause (this is in fact an Adverbial attached to the preceding line)

There at a table, dealin' stud

Sat the dirty, mangy dog that named me Sue

... the dirty mangy dog **that** named me Sue

relative clause modifying *dog*

Relative clause is canonical; Subject (mangy dog) - Verb (named) - Object (me) (*Sue* is the Object Complement)

Well, I knew that snake was my own sweet dad

From a worn out picture that my mother'd had

Well, I knew **that snake was my own sweet dad** from a worn out picture **that my mother'd had**

Direct Object of *know*

Relative clause modifying *picture*

And I knew that scar on his cheek and his evil eye

No dependent clause

He was big and bent, and gray and old

No dependent clause

And I looked at him, and my blood ran cold

2 coordinated clauses; *And I looked at him, (and) my blood ran cold*

And I said "My name is Sue! How do you do?"

And I said "My name is Sue! How do you do?"

Direct Object of *say*

Now you gonna die"

No dependent clause

Yeah! That's what I told him

That's what I told him

Subject Complement

Well, I hit him hard right between the eyes
And he went down, but to my surprise
He come up with a knife, and cut off a piece of my ear
But I busted a chair right across his teeth
And we crashed through the wall and into the street
Kickin' and a' gugin' in the mud and the blood and the beer

No dependent clause. 3 coordinated clauses; *Well, I hit him hard right between the eyes, (and) he went down, (but) (to my surprise_{Adverbial}), he come up with a knife, (and) cut off a piece of my ear, (but) I busted a chair right across his teeth, (and) we crashed through the wall and into the street, kickin' and a' gugin' in the mud and the blood and the beer*

I tell ya, I've fought tougher men
But I really can't remember when
He kicked like a mule and he bit like a crocodile

I really can't remember when he kicked like a mule and he bit ...

Direct Object of *remember*

NB within the dependent clause we have 2 coordinated clauses; *he kicked like a mule* and *he bit like a crocodile* *I tell ya* is another parenthetical. It looks as if the sentence *I tell ya I've fought tougher men* has a main clause - dependent clause structure, with *I've fought tougher men* as the direct object, but notice how the unit *I tell ya* can move to the end, e.g. *I've fought tougher men, I tell ya*

I heard him laugh and then I heard him cuss

In this course we are only studying FINITE dependent clauses. There are two NONFINITE dependent clauses in this sentence; I heard him laugh and then I heard him cuss .

Od of heard

Od of heard

Please note that there will not be any NONFINITE dependent clauses in the exam.

And he went for his gun and I pulled mine first

2 coordinated clauses; And he went for his gun and I pulled mine first

He stood there lookin' at me and I saw him smile

He stood there lookin' at me and I saw him smile.

NB *I saw him smile* contains a NONFINITE dependent clause; I saw him smile

Od of saw

And he said, "Son, this world is rough
And if a man's gonna make it, he's gotta be tough
And I know I wouldn't be there to help you along
So I give you that name and I said goodbye

Golly!

The clause beginning *Son* and ending *goodbye* is a big dependent clause; the Direct Object of *say*. Within that we have an adverbial clause *if a man's gonna make it*, and a clause in Direct Object position; *I wouldn't be there to help you* There are also multiple conjoined clauses (beginning *and* ... and *so* ...).

I have provided a big tree diagram of this sentence at the end of this exercise.

I knew you'd have to get tough or die

I knew you'd have to get tough or die

Clause = Direct Object

Or is a coordinating conjunction, but it does not coordinate 2 clauses. It coordinates two verbs (or 'Verb Phrases')

And it's that name that helped to make you strong"

And it's that name that helped to make you strong"

Clause = relative clause postmodifying 'name'

Yeah, he said, "Now you just fought one hell of a fight
And I know you hate me, and you got the right
To kill me now, and I wouldn't blame you if you do
But you oughtta thank me, before I die
For the gravel in your guts and the spit in the eye
'Cause I'm the son of-a bitch that named you Sue."

This is a very complex sentence with no less than 13 dependent clauses!! Have a look at the diagram at the end.

Yeah, what could I do? What could I do?

No dependent clauses

I got all choked up and I threw down my gun

Two clauses linked by coordinator and

I called him my pa, and he called me his son
And I come away with a different point of view
And I think about him now and then
Every time I try and every time I win

I called him my pa, and he called me his son

And I come away with a different point of view

And I think about him now and then

Every time I try and every time I win

There are multiple clauses conjoined by *and*. The final line is an adverbial clause introduced by the conjunction *Every time*

And if I ever have a son, I think I'm gonna name him
 Bill or George any damn thing but Sue
 I still hate that name
 Yeah

And if I ever have a son

Adv. Clause

I think I'm gonna name him ...

0.2 Extra points!

1. A modal verb expressing epistemic modality

Well he musta (must have) thought that was quite a joke

2. A modal verb expressing deontic modality

But you oughtta thank me, before I die

3. An auxiliary verb used to express a habitual event

The verb 'would' is used to refer to a habitual event; I'd roam from town to town to hide my shame ... I'd search the honkytonks and bars

4. An indirect object

And he didn't leave much to ma and me

Od

Oi

Yeah! That's what I told him

Oi

So I give you that name

Oi

Od

5. An object complement

And it's that name that helped to make you strong

Od

Co

'Cause I'm the son of-a bitch that named you Sue

Od

Co

I called him my pa, and he called me his son

Od

Co

0.3 Complex sentence diagrams

