

# Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

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## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

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1. When I fall in love, it will be forever
2. Wherever I lay my hat, that's my home
3. Whenever/wherever we're meant to be together, I'll be there and you'll be near

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1. When I fall in love, it will be forever
2. Wherever I lay my hat, that's my home
3. Whenever/wherever we're meant to be together, I'll be there and you'll be near

These all contain examples of ADVERBIAL CLAUSES (pink)

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# Definitions

A clause is a linguistic unit (phrase) which describes a **situation**.

It must have a **Verb** (to describe the situation), and it must have at least one **Argument**

If only one argument  $\Rightarrow$  Subject Position.

*Typically* the verb will carry tense.

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# Definitions

For the purposes of this course, a “clause” is indistinguishable from a “sentence”, e.g.

1. Jack likes cheese
2. Anita is the coolest person in the universe!

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# Definitions

If you wish to count the number of clauses in a sentence  
count the number of Subject + Verb combinations

- (1) Because the administrator I saw last week was ill,  
they said they would find a new administrator who  
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# Definitions

If you wish to count the number of clauses in a sentence  
count the number of Subject + Verb combinations

- (1) Because the administrator I saw last week was ill,  
they said they would find a new administrator who  
could help
- (2) Because the administrator [ I saw last week ] was ill,  
they said they would find a new administrator who  
could help

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# Unusual types of clauses

1. (My) Being rich is not my primary aim in life

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# What is the purpose of clauses?

Describe SITUATIONS which correspond to SCENES or MENTAL PICTURES.



**A tiger**

**ENTITY**



**A tiger** creeping through  
the jungle

**ENTITY + SITUATION**  
= A PROPOSITION

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# What is the purpose of clauses?

Essential to the way we think, express our thoughts, and categorise the world around us.

Without clauses we wouldn't really be able to communicate.

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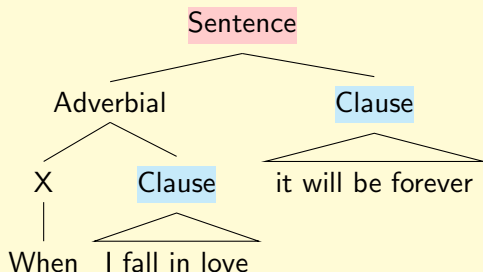
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# So why not just use the term “sentence”?

Clauses come inside sentences



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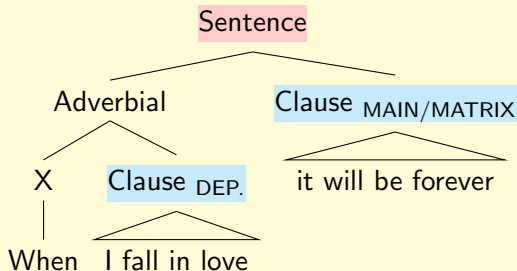
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# Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Clauses come inside sentences



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# What is an adverbial clause?

When she was challenged about the stolen cake

Dawn burst into tears

Adverbial clause

Clause plus “linking” words (*unless, as long as, while, so that, because*) takes Adverbial function

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# What is an adverbial clause?

When she was challenged about the stolen cake

Dawn burst into tears

Adverbial clause

Clause plus “linking” words (*unless, as long as, while, so that, because*) takes Adverbial function

1. Optional (like an adverbial)
2. Movable (like an adverbial)
3. Modify the event in the main clause (like an adverbial)

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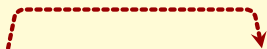
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# What is an adverbial clause?

1. Last weekend I had a party

2.  I had a party last weekend

3. ~~Last weekend~~ I had a party

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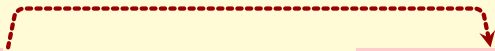
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# What is an adverbial clause?

1. Because it was raining the fields were underwater

2.  The fields were underwater because it was raining

3. ~~Because it was raining~~ the fields were underwater

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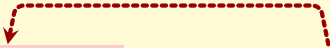
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# What is an adverbial clause?

1. Don't say sorry unless you mean it

2. Unless you mean it Don't say sorry t



3. Don't say sorry ~~unless you mean it~~

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# What is an adverbial clause?

Because the ADVERBIAL is semantically dependent on the main clause, it cannot stand alone.

The 'door' test (Steven McCafferty)



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For the following sentences, identify the dependent and main clauses.

Try to use the following tests

1. Are they semantically backgrounded? (if yes, they are likely to be a dependent clause)
2. Are they syntactically optional (if yes, they are likely to be a dependent clause)
3. Do they pass the “door” test (if no, they are likely to be a dependent clause)

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1. You can't come to the party unless you bring strawberries and champagne
2. You can bring books into the exam as long as they are placed on your desks.
3. While Nancy likes hot food, her partner cannot stand chilli pepper.
4. Nancy stood on tiptoe so that she could reach the top shelf
5. As she'd forgotten her kit she couldn't play football
6. When she was challenged about the stolen cake Dawn burst into tears.

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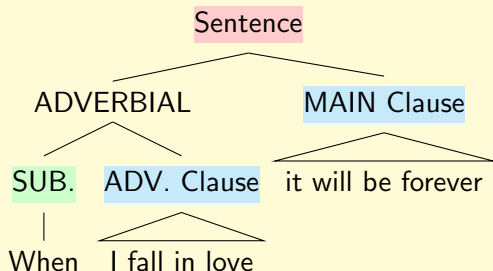
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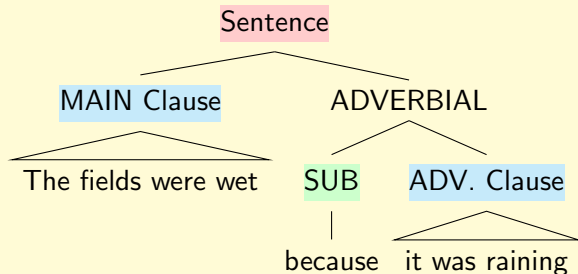
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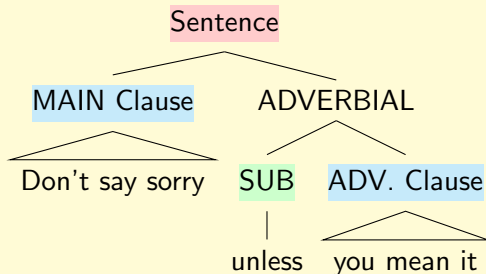
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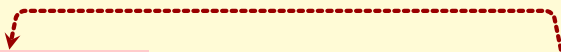
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# What is a subordinating conjunction

1. He had a good time at the party. He was tired.
2. He had a good time at the party, **although** he was tired.
- 3.

**Although** he was tired he had a good time at the party **t**



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# Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

1. **Although** he was tired, he had a good time at the party.  
He had a good time at the party, **although** he was tired.  
SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION
2. He was tired, **but** he had a good time at the party.
3. He was tired. **However**, he had a good time at the party.

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# The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Useful devices for linking events in a narrative.

Assessed in many language assessments, e.g. the Formulating Sentences subtest of the CELF.



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# The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Language impaired individuals have great difficulties using subordinating conjunctions to introduce adverbial clauses.

They have lower **clausal** density (number of clauses per sentence)

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# Exercise

For the following sentences:

1. Link them using a subordinating conjunction.
2. Do tests for the adverbial phrase (the movement test and “door” test)
3. Try to rewrite the sentence using either an adverb or a coordinating conjunction (not always possible)

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# Exercise

1. Touch that wire. You will be electrocuted.
2. Jack did not study very hard. He failed the exam.
3. Max can come to the party. He promises to behave himself.
4. Janice and Elena were on holiday. Their house was being burgled.
5. Jack added salt and pepper. The food tasted better.

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**If** you touch that wire you will be electrocuted.

You will be electrocuted **if** you touch that wire

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**Since/as/because** Jack did not study hard he failed the exam

He failed the exam

**Since/as/because** he did not study hard

He did not study hard. **Therefore/Consequently** he failed the exam.

He did not study hard, **so** he failed the exam.

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Max can come to the party

**if/as long as/provided that** he behaves himself

**If/as long as/provided that** he behaves himself Max can come to the party.

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**While/when** Janice and Elena were on holiday their house was being burgled.

Their house was being burgled

**while/when** Janice and Elena were on holiday

Janice and Elena were on holiday. **Meanwhile** their house was being burgled.

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**Because** Jack added salt the food tasted better

The food tasted better **because** Jack added salt

Jack added salt.

**Therefore/consequently** the food tasted better.

Jack added salt **so** the food would taste better

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How many finite clauses in the following lyrics from the Blur song "Girls and 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 you really love



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