

# Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

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## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Homework

## Clauses

## Adverbial clauses

## Subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

## Homework

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Homework

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

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Homework

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)

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Adverbial clauses

Subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Homework

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# 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.

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

#### Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# 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!

Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses  
Nick Riches

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

### Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term “sentence”?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework

# 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

Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of  
clauses?

So why not just use the  
term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate)  
versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating  
conjunctions

What is a subordinating  
conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions  
and other linking words

The importance of  
subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Exercise

Homework

Homework



# 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

Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses  
Nick Riches

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

### Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of  
clauses?

So why not just use the  
term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate)  
versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating  
conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions  
and other linking words

The importance of  
subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework

# Unusual types of clauses

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

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

#### Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# 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

Dependent Clauses

I:

Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Exercise

Homework

Homework

# 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.

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

**What is the purpose of clauses?**

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

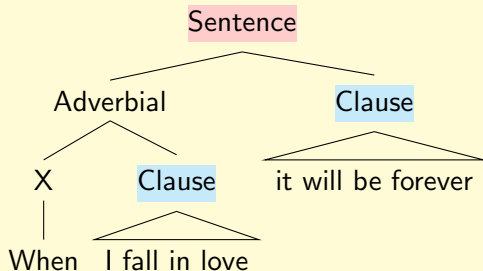
Exercise

### Homework

Homework

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

Clauses come inside sentences



Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term “sentence”?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

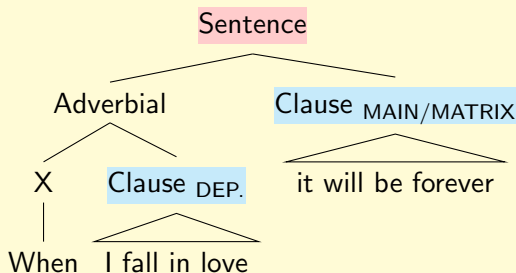
Exercise

Homework

Homework

# Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Clauses come inside sentences



Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Exercise

Homework

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Adverbial clauses

Subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Homework

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# What is an adverbial clause?

When she was challenged about the stolen cake

Dawn burst into tears

Adverbial clause

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

Dependent Clauses

I:

Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term “sentence”?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Exercise

Homework

Homework



# What is an adverbial clause?

When she was challenged about the stolen cake

Dawn burst into tears

Adverbial clause

Clause plus “connecting” 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)

Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term “sentence”?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

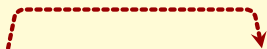
Exercise

Homework

Homework

# 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

## Dependent Clauses

I:

### Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

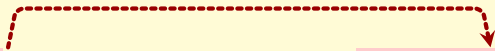
Exercise

## Homework

Homework

# 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

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

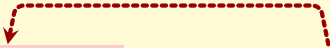
### Homework

Homework

# 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~~

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# What is an adverbial clause?

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

The 'door' test (Steven McCafferty)



## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Exercise

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

Try to use the following tests

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

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term “sentence”?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework

# Exercise

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.

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Exercise

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unless you bring strawberries and champagne
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6. When she was challenged about the stolen cake  
Dawn burst into tears

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework



Homework

Clauses

Adverbial clauses

Subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Homework

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

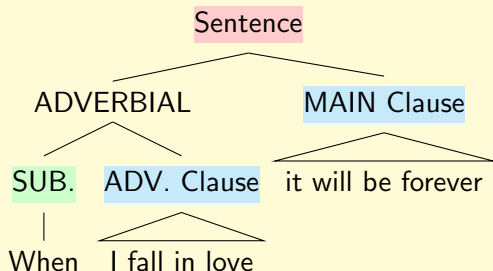
### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# What is a subordinating conjunction



Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

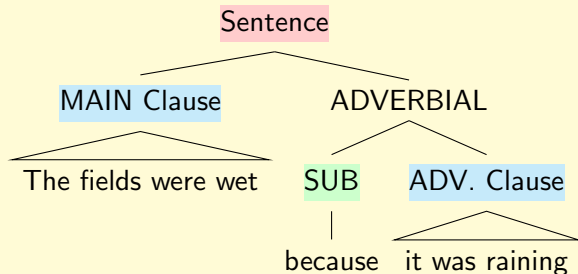
Exercise

Exercise

Homework

Homework

# What is a subordinating conjunction



Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

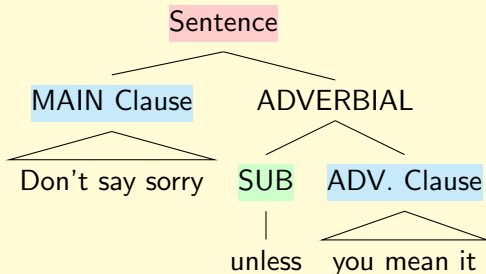
Exercise

Exercise

Homework

Homework

# What is a subordinating conjunction



Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Exercise

Homework

Homework

# What is a subordinating conjunction



## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

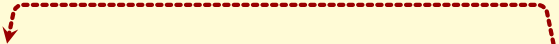
### Homework

Homework

# 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**



Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses  
Nick Riches

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework

# Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

1. **Although** he was tired, he had a good time at the party.  
He had a good time, **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.

Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses  
Nick Riches

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework

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1. **Although** he was tired, he had a good time at the party.  
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SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION
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Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses  
Nick Riches

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework



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1. **Although** he was tired, he had a good time at the party.  
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SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION
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Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses  
Nick Riches

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework

# 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.



Dependent Clauses  
I:  
Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Exercise

Homework

Homework

# 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)

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

**The importance of subordinating conjunctions**

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Adverbial clauses

Subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Homework

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# 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 Adverbial or a coordinating conjunction (not always possible)

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term “sentence”?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework

# 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.

## Homework

Homework

## Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

## Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

## Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

## Exercise

Exercise

## Homework

Homework

# Exercise

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

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

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Exercise

**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.

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework



# Exercise

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.

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Exercise

**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.

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Exercise

**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

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

Homework

Clauses

Adverbial clauses

Subordinating conjunctions

Exercise

Homework

## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term "sentence"?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework

# Homework

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



## Dependent Clauses I: Adverbial clauses

Nick Riches

### Homework

Homework

### Clauses

Definitions

Unusual types of clauses

What is the purpose of clauses?

So why not just use the term “sentence”?

Dependent (subordinate) versus main clauses

### Adverbial clauses

What is an adverbial clause?

Exercise

### Subordinating conjunctions

What is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinating conjunctions and other linking words

The importance of subordinating conjunctions

### Exercise

Exercise

### Homework

Homework