
Seminar 6

1. For the following sentences, put a box around the subordinating words, and a line beneath the dependent (subordinate) clauses. Then, below the dependent clauses write (a) the function of the dependent clause (A, Od, Oi, Cs, Co, P-mod), and (b) the word which chooses that clause as complement (if relevant) or the word which the clause modifies

- a) Jack wondered whether he should take up the job offer

Jack wondered whether he should take up the job.
DIRECT OBJECT OF VERB 'WONDER'

- b) The computer she used for homework was getting old so she bought a new one

The computer (that/which) she used for homework was getting old so she bought a new one.

FIRST CLAUSE IS A RELATIVE CLAUSE WHICH POSTMODIFIES THE NOUN PHRASE 'THE COMPUTER'

'she bought a new one' is actually a conjoined clause. 'So' is a slightly wierd type of linking word. When it describes PURPOSE, e.g. *he put up his umbrella so (that) he wouldn't get wet*, it acts as a subordinating conjunction introducing an adverbial clause. In this case it is movable, e.g.

So (that) he wouldn't get wet he put up his umbrella t

However when 'so' is used to describe cause and effect, e.g. *there was no one in the pub so he closed early* it acts as a coordinating conjunction, and therefore the conjunction+clause unit cannot be moved. The 'so' in the example sentence is this kind of 'so'

- c) Unless you start working a bit harder you won't get a bonus

Unless you start working a bit harder you won't get a bonus
ADVERBIAL CLAUSE

- d) What you do in your spare time is no business of mine!

What you do in your spare time is no business of mine.
CLAUSE IN SUBJECT POSITION

- e) John's argument that because he was allergic to dust he couldn't do the cleaning didn't carry much weight with his housemates

John's argument that because he was allergic to dust he couldn't do the cleaning didn't carry much weight with his housemates

John's argument [_{Pmod} that [_{Adv} because he was allergic to dust] he couldn't do the cleaning] didn't carry much weight with his housemates

FIRST CLAUSE POSTMODIFIES THE NOUN PHRASE 'JOHN'S ARGUMENT'.
SECOND CLAUSE (COMING INSIDE THE FIRST CLAUSE) IS AN ADVERBIAL CLAUSE

- f) Jason mulled over whether he should report his boss to the tax authorities

Jason mulled over whether he should report his boss to the tax authorities
DIRECT OBJECT OF VERB 'MULL OVER'

- g) It's unusual that so many people have complained

It's unusual that so many people have complained

CLAUSE ORIGINATES IN SUBJECT POSITION AND HAS BEEN SHIFTED TO THE END OF THE SENTENCE (HEAVY PHRASE SHIFT)

- h) Ali persuaded Chen that they should have a leaving do for Sarah

Ali persuaded Chen that they should have a leaving do for Sarah
CLAUSE IS THE DIRECT OBJECT OF THE VERB 'PERSUADE'

- i) Sarah poured the milk on her cereal even though it was slightly off

Sarah poured the milk on her cereal even though it was slightly off
ADVERBIAL CLAUSE

- j) The moment he walked through the front door he sensed that something had happened.

The moment he walked through the front door he sensed that something had happened

(1) ADVERBIAL CLAUSE (2) DIRECT OBJECT OF THE VERB 'SENSE'

- k) Juan was disappointed that he was too late to enter the race.

Juan was disappointed that he was too late to enter the race
COMPLEMENT OF THE ADJECTIVE 'DISAPPOINTED'

- l) People who live in glass houses should not throw stones

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones
RELATIVE CLAUSE POST-MODIFYING 'PEOPLE'

- m) While Amos loves oriental food two Chinese banquets in a row were too much for him

While Amos loves oriental food two Chinese banquets in a row were too much for him
ADVERBIAL CLAUSE

- n) He who laughs last laughs longest

He who laughs last laughs longest
RELATIVE CLAUSE POSTMODIFYING 'HE' (NB IT IS RELATIVELY RARE FOR A RELATIVE CLAUSE TO POSTMODIFY A PRONOUN. THIS SOUNDS VERY OLDY-WOLDY.)

2. Label the tense/aspect of the following sentences

- a) She had always hated maths classes

She had always hated maths classes.
past perfective

Past Perfect

- b) Hurry! They won't have started yet

Hurry! They won't have started yet
'fut.' perf.

Future Perfect

- c) I've been studying now for ten solid hours!

I 've been studying for ten solid hours!
pres. perf. prog.

Present perfect progressive

d) I don't eat meat

I don't eat meat

pres. Inf. form

Present simple

e) Have you ever been to Monaco?

Have you ever been to Monaco?

pres.

perf.

Present Perfect

f) She was laughing her head off!

She was laughing her head off!

past

prog.

Past progressive

3. How are the following sentences ambiguous?

a) Somali Tied to Militants Held on U.S. Ship for Months Wikipedia example

Somali [_{pmod} Tied to Militants] Held on U.S. Ship for Months

Somali [_{pmod} Tied to Militants [_{pmod} Held on U.S. Ship for Months]]

b) Landmine claims dog arms company Wikipedia example

Landmine claims_{Sub} dog_{Vb} arms company_{Od}

Landmine_{Sub} claims_{Vb} dog arms company_{Od}

Landmine_{Sub} claims_{Vb} [dog arms company _{Clause}]