

# **Clauses and Types**

**Course Instructor: Dr. Payel Pal**

**Course: Technical Communication in English**

**July- Dec 2019**

# Clauses

A clause is a collection of words that has a subject that is actively doing a verb.

The following are examples of clauses:

1. since **she** (subject) laughs (predicate) at diffident men
2. **I** despise individuals of low character
3. when the **saints** go marching in
4. **He** is uglier than a rabid raccoon
5. because **she** smiled at him

# Independent Clause

- If the clause can stand by itself, and form a complete sentence with punctuation, we call the clause an **independent clause**.

The following are independent clauses:

1. I despise individuals of low character
2. She is smarter than many in her class
3. Thomas and Sally lived in Paris for a long time
4. Socrates drank hemlock and died.

An independent clause is another name for **a simple sentence**. It has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought.

# Independent Clause

Independent clauses can be written as individual sentences or they can be joined as one sentence. One way to join is by using a comma and coordinating conjunction after the first independent clause. Two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (**and**, **but**, **or**, **for**, **nor**, **yet**, **so**) make up a compound sentence.

Examples:

1. Smita wrote an article. She submitted it for publication (two independent clauses)
2. Smita wrote an article, **and** she submitted it for publication (compound sentence)

# Independent Clause joined together to form a compound sentence

Examples:

1. We can leave here about 10.00 a.m. or we can leave after lunch.
2. The captain asked the crew's opinion and he went on asking each of them.
3. Shalini left the office but she will return in three hours.
4. He retired but he could never forget his early years in office.
5. Winter has gone yet there is cold in our area.

# Dependent clause

- Dependent clauses have a subject doing a verb, but they have a subordinating conjunction placed in front of the clause.
- That subordinate conjunction means that the clause can't stand independently by itself and become a complete sentence. Instead, the dependent clause is dependent upon another clause—it can't make a complete sentence by itself, even though it has a subject doing a verb.
- A dependent clause can function as a noun, adjective or adverb.

# Dependent clause

## Examples

1. I know that wheat grows in Kansas. (noun)
2. The car which rolled over the cliff was a pink Cadillac. (adjective)
3. He retired early because he had made huge amount of money.  
(adverb)
4. He is not interested in movies which show violence. (adjective)
5. He ran fast as he had to catch a flight. (adverb)

# Subordinating conjunctions

- How
- That
- When
- Where
- Whether
- If
- Why
- What
- Whatever
- Who
- Whoever
- Whom
- Whomever
- Whose
- Whosever
- Which
- Whichever
- Before
- After
- Since
- As
- As if
- Unless
- Until
- Because
- Even though



# Types of sentences (depending on clause)

## Simple Sentence:

- One subject-verb relationship.

Example: We *talked* to the supervisor this morning

- Can have more than one subject as long as they share the same verb.

Example: My friend and your brother *have been working* on it for weeks.

- Can have more than one verb as long as the verbs share the same subject.

Example: He *listened* to the radio all morning and *forgot* to study for his test.

# Types of sentences (depending on clause)

Compound sentence: Two or more separate independent clauses connected with a comma and coordinating conjunction or a semicolon (with or without a transitional expression).

- Coordinating conjunctions: and, for, nor, but, or, yet, so
- Transitional expressions: moreover, further, thus, however, consequently, besides, as a result.

Examples:

1. We *went* to the movies last night, and we *stopped* for coffee afterward.
2. Jack *wrote* his essay last night; however, he *forgot* to print it out.

# Types of sentences (depending on clause)

Complex Sentence: One independent clause (main clause) connected to one or more subordinate clauses (Dependent clauses)

Example:

1. Although I was invited to the party, I didn't want to go.
2. We invited the neighbor to the party even though we don't like him.
3. Joe realized that the train was late while he waited at the train station.
4. Studying before the test is good, if you want to pass.

# Types of sentences (depending on clause)

Compound-Complex Sentence: Two or main clauses connected to at least one subordinate clause.

Example:

1. **When we heard a crash outside** (subordinate clause- adverb clause), I ran to the window (independent clause) **and** (coordinating conjunctions) Joe called the police (independent clause).
2. We won the game, but my uniform was muddy **because it rained heavily**- (subordinate clause-adverb clause)
3. The sun is shining through the clouds, so I think **that we can go swimming**. (subordinate clause- noun clause)

# Types of sentences (depending on clause)

- When I grow up, (subordinate clause-adverb clause) I want to be a ballerina, (independent clause) **and** my mom is proud of me (independent clause).
- I will get to watch television, but first, I have to clean up the dishes after we finish eating (subordinate clause-adverb clause).
- After our trip to the beach (subordinate clause-adverb clause), school started back, and I was excited to see my friends.
- Sarah cried when her cat got sick (subordinate clause-adverb clause), but he soon got better.

# Noun clauses

- A **noun clause** is a dependent clause which takes the place of a noun in another clause or phrase. Like a noun, a noun clause acts as the subject or direct/ indirect object of a verb or the object of a preposition, answering the questions “who(m)?”, “what?” , “where” and so.

Examples:

**As a subject:** His whereabouts are unknown. (noun)

Where he lives is unknown (noun clause)

# Noun clauses

- **As direct object:** I don't know that man- noun  
I don't know who he is- noun clause
- **As indirect object:** The security officer gave the students key. (noun)  
The security officer gave the key whoever wanted it. (noun clause)
- **As object of preposition:** He is not interested in mathematics (noun)  
He is not interested in what the class is studying.

# Adjective Clauses

- An **adjective clause** is a dependent clause which takes the place of an adjective in another clause or phrase. Like an adjective, an adjective clause modifies a noun or pronoun, answering questions like “which?” or “what kind of?”

## Example

1. David **who has been with the company five years** is our new director.
2. The time **when our plane arrives** is 4.00 p.m.
3. The house **where Lincoln lived as a young man** was in Illinois.



# Adjective Clauses

- **Essential clauses** are also called **identifying or restrictive**. We do not use commas with these clauses.

Example: He is the man **who works at the grocery store**.

- **Extra clauses** are also called **non-identifying or non-restrictive**. We must use commas with these clauses. We cannot use the relative pronoun **that**.

Example: Maria, **who works as a physician's assistant**, enjoys her job.

# Adjective Clauses

Examples:

1. The scientists discussed the issues **that the conference had raised**.
2. The company rejected the parts **whose design was defective**.
3. We found the bird **whose wing had been damaged**.
4. The children **whom you asked about** live next door.
5. The deserts **that they serve** are really good.

An adjective clause begins with a subordinator. The subordinator connects the adjective clause to the word in the main clause it modifies.

# Adverb Clause

- An adverb clause is a dependent clause.
- An adverb clause **modifies a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a sentence.**
- Adverb clauses **always begin with a subordinator.**
- The subordinator is a connecting word which explains the relationship between the adverb clause and main clause. It tells the reader what kind of information is added by the adverb clause.
- An adverb clause can answer any of the following questions: **When? Where? How? To what degree? and Under what condition(s)?**

# Adverb Clause

## Examples:

- Joanne had to develop many money-management skills when she served as treasurer of her senior class.
- As Mike worked on his research project for his English class, he learned to gather information from sources on the Internet.
- Cinderella lost her shoe after the clock struck twelve.
- Mary hid the key where no one could find it.
- The bush is as high as the fence.
- The fire will burn the forest unless it rains.

**Thank you**