

## CLAUSES

A **clause** is a group of words containing a subject and verb.

An **independent (main) clause** is a simple sentence. It can stand on its own.

**Examples:**

She is hungry.

I am feeling well today.

A **dependent (subordinate) clause** cannot stand on its own. It needs an independent clause to complete a sentence. Dependent clauses often begin with such words as although, since, if, when, and because.

**Examples:**

Although she is hungry ...

Whoever is hungry ...

Because I am feeling well ...

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Dependent</u> | <u>Independent</u> |
|------------------|--------------------|

|                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Although she is hungry, | she will give him some of her food. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Whatever they decide, | I will agree to. |
|-----------------------|------------------|

### Types of subordinate clauses

A **relative clause** is a subordinate clause that identifies someone or something or provides information about them:

Robert, **who had been listening to their conversation**, suddenly laughed.

This is the house **that I was telling you about**.

She was wearing a dress **that was much too big for her**.

An **adverbial clause** is a clause that has the function of an adverbial in the main clause of its sentence:

We can talk about that **when I get home**.

Put that one **where you put the others**.

He was driving **as if he was completely drunk**.

**If you don't have any tea**, I'll drink coffee.

A **noun clause** is a clause that can fill the same function in a sentence as a noun or pronoun:

I know **that she can hear us**.

**What you think** is of no concern to me.

A **non-finite clause** is one that is formed with an **infinitive**, a **participle** or a **verbal noun**:

**To go there on your own** would be very foolish. (with an infinitive)

**Being rather shy**, she just stared at the man, saying nothing. (with a present participle)

**In saying that**, I don't mean any harm to him. (with a verbal noun)

A **verbless clause** is one that has no verb in it at all:

**When on holiday**, I like to go for long walks.

### Functions of subordinate clauses:

A subordinate clause can do the job of other clause elements. It can work as subject, object, complement and adverbial, as in **these examples**:

- Subordinate subject clause: **What you say** is stupid.
- Subordinate object clause: I did not know **that you were here**.
- Subordinate complement clause: Your first job is **learning this grammar**.
- Subordinate adverbial clause: Come round **when you're ready**.

### **Exercise 1:**

**A-** Pick out the main clauses and subordinate clauses in the following sentences:

**B-** Describe the functions (subject, direct object, adverbial, etc)

1. I could see that she was worried.
2. As I drove towards his house, I was hoping that he would be out.
3. I'll come whenever I can.
4. Do you know what she did when I told her what you'd said?
5. Why don't you have a cup of tea while we're waiting?
6. I don't know whether we should be doing this.
7. The children laughed at the antics of the clowns.
8. The children laughed as the clowns poured water over each other.
9. Stay where you are until I come.
10. If you go, I will go too.
11. Whenever I run, my leg hurts.
12. I didn't like what 1 was doing but 1 had no choice.

## SENTENCES:

### Simple Sentence<sup>2</sup>s

- A simple sentence contains a subject and a verb. It expresses a single complete thought that can stand on its own.

#### **Examples:**

1. The baby cried for food.
2. Professor Maple's intelligent students completed and turned in their homework.
3. Megan and Ron ate too much and felt sick.

### Compound Sentences

- A compound sentence has two independent clauses. An independent clause is a part of a sentence that can stand alone because it contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. These independent clauses are joined by a conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

#### **Examples:**

1. The shoplifter had stolen clothes, **so** he ran once he saw the police.
2. They spoke to him in Spanish, **but** he responded in English.

### Complex Sentences

- A complex sentence is an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses. A dependent clause either lacks a subject or a verb or has both a subject and a verb that does not express a complete thought.

- A complex sentence always has a subordinator (as, because, since, after, although, when) or relative pronouns (who, that, which).

#### **Examples:**

1. After eating lunch at The Cheesecake Factory, Tim went to the gym to exercise.
2. **When you find the answer**, let me know.
3. I know **why he ran away**.
4. **If you need more time**, I can give you more time.

### Compound-Complex Sentences

- A compound-complex sentence has two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

#### **Examples:**

1. After the two soccer players lost their game, they joined their other teammates for lunch, and they went to the movies.
2. The man believed in the system, and he knew that justice would prevail **after** the murderer was sent to jail.

#### **Exercise 1:**

Identify whether the sentences are simple, complex, compound or compound-complex. Please underline dependent clauses where it applies.

1. *Vampires Dairies* is my favorite television show, but I also love *True Blood*.
2. The student wiped the white board that was filthy with last week's notes.
3. The trendy fashion designer released her new line on Wednesday.
4. Trina and Hareem went to a bar in Hollywood to celebrate their anniversary.
5. Wicked Regina cast a spell on the entire city, so the citizens decided to rebel.
6. While waiting for the paint to dry, Angela went to Home Depot, and Martin organized the kitchen appliances.
7. After listening to the Kanye West CD, I have new respect for his music.
8. After the teacher chose groups, John and Sara were selected as partners for a project, yet Sarah did most of the work.

#### **Exercise 2:**

**Below are some dependent clauses. They cannot stand alone as sentences. Add an independent clause to each of the following dependent clauses to create a complex sentence.**

**Example: after the rain stopped**

**Answer: We went swimming after the rain stopped.**

1. if you find my CD
2. that makes no sense
3. so that the project is completed on time
4. since everyone agrees
5. because you don't understand me
6. while he tried to sleep
7. although he gave it his best shot
8. whenever the bell rings
9. after the party was over

10. before class begins

**Exercise 3:**

**Below are ten complex sentences. In each sentence underline the independent clause once and the dependent clause twice.**

1. He is sitting in the chair that is falling apart.
2. Although he hasn't read the book, he has decided to write a book report on it.
3. While you cook dinner, I will set the table.
4. After he left the dance, Bill drove home in the car that his parents gave him for his birthday.
5. I don't understand the problem even though I got the right answer.
6. When you find him, you should give him the money that you owe him.
7. I saved my money so that I could buy an iPad.
8. I have made the honor roll since I was in seventh grade.
9. Unless you know the answer, do not raise your hand.
9. I will buy you a ticket if you give me the money for it.
10. Whenever he plays quarterback, the football team always wins.

**Exercise 4:**

**Label each sentence below as simple (S), compound (CP), complex (CX), or compound-complex (CPX).**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. You can enter the data, or you can interview the candidates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. No one knew the man, and no one asked his name.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. After the officer pulled Tim over, Tim began to cry, and the officer took pity on him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mrs. Smith assigned twenty pages of the novel for homework.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Running after the car, the dog barked until the car was out of sight.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. You should read the assigned novel; do not read *Spark Notes!*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I love skiing, my brother loves snowboarding, and my sister likes snow tubing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. If you do not want to join marching band, you should find another extracurricular activity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Do your homework!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Whenever I hear classical music, I immediately get sleepy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. In the middle of the night, my little sister screamed at the top of her lungs because she had a nightmare, and I ran to comfort her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. I washed and vacuumed the car.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. We ordered pork tenderloin for our entrée and scalloped potatoes for our side dish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. We have nothing to fear but fear itself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. I now understand simple, compound, and compound-complex sentences