جامعة تكريت

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قسم اللغة الانكليزية

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Clauses

A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb. We use clauses to form sentences or parts of sentences. There are a number of different types of clause including main clauses, subordinate clauses, coordinate clauses and adjective (or relative) clauses.

What is a Clause in English?

A clause is an important feature of written English. Simply, it's a group of words that includes a subject and a verb.

Clauses are what make up a sentence, and there are different kinds including main clauses, coordinate clause and subordinate clauses.

To help us answer the question of 'what is a clause in English?', let's look at an example: *The fast, white mouse darted up a tree.*

The subject of this clause is the mouse, and the verb is 'darted'. This can also be called a simple sentence.

What Are The Different Types of Clause?

It's important to be aware that there are a number of clause types that can be used in a sentence.
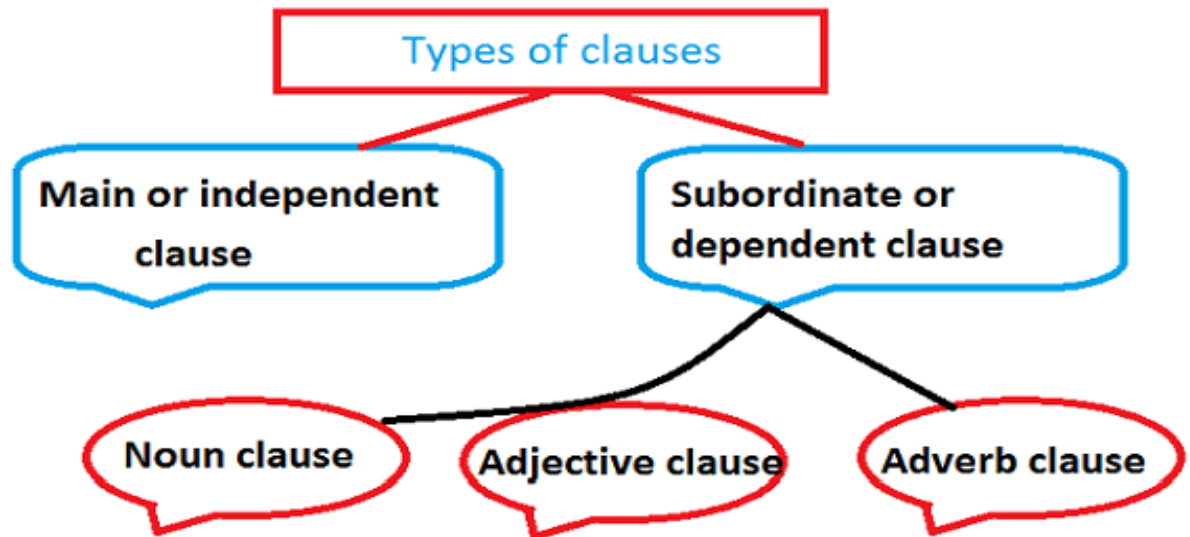
1. What is a main clause?

A main clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. A main clause can form a complete sentence all on its own. Main clauses are also often referred to as independent clauses because they don't need any additional information to make sense. They can stand alone perfectly fine without the support of another clause. They express a complete thought.

Sentences can consist of two main clauses or a main clause and another type of clause. When there is only one main clause and another different type of clause, the second clause depends on the main clause to make sense.

Examples of main clauses include:
- The cat mewed.
- His car broke down at the station.
- The girl laughed loudly.

Types of clauses

Main or independent clause

Subordinate or dependent clause

Noun clause

Adjective clause

Adverb clause

2. What are subordinate clauses?

It is important to know about the subordinate (or dependent) clause!

Unlike main clauses, subordinate clauses need a little help to make sense, and they are also often referred to as dependent clauses. A subordinate clause is a clause that can't stand alone as a complete sentence, even though it contains a subject and a verb. It doesn't contain a complete thought as a main clause does. It has to be linked to the main clause using a subordinating conjunction.

Examples of subordinate clause include:
- Sitting happily, the chicken laid eggs.
- The chicken, who was busy laying eggs, sat happily.
- Looking over the hill, she sighed wistfully.
- She sighed wistfully, looking over the hill.
- The girl, who was looking over the hill, sighed wistfully.

'Sitting happily' is a subordinate clause because it's not a complete thought. It needs the main clause, 'the chicken laid eggs', to make any sense to the reader.

3. What are coordinate clauses?

A coordinate clause is made when you connect two independent clauses that are of equal importance. These clauses are connected by coordinating conjunctions. Similar to subordinate clauses, coordinate clauses also combine two sentences, so it can be difficult to get the difference between them right.

A good way to remember the difference between the two is to first think of the meaning of 'coordinate'. To coordinate means to work together on equal standing. A coordinate clause contains two sentences with equal importance. So, just remember that in a coordinate clause, the two sentences are working together as a team to make one coordinate clause.

Examples of coordinate clauses include:
- He wanted to go to the beach, but it started raining.
- You can feed the dog, or you can wash the dishes.
- They have homework to do, yet they keep putting it off.

These two clauses are connected by a coordinating conjunction.
- I like chocolate and I like sweets.

Both 'I like chocolate' and 'I like sweets' are main clauses that can make sense independently. They've been joined together by the coordinating conjunction, 'and', to make coordinate clauses.

4. What are adjective clauses?

An adjective clause begins with a relative pronoun (such as whom, whose, which, or that) or a relative adverb (when, where, or why). This type of clause includes a relative pronoun or adverb alongside a subject and / or a verb. Similar to a subordinate clause, an adjective clause is a dependent clause because it relies on the rest of the sentence to make sense.

A good tip for remembering how to spot an adjective clause is to watch out for certain words. The only words that can be used to introduce an adjective clause are relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which or that) and subordinating conjunctions (when and where).

Examples of adjective clauses include:
-The girl who has short hair is laughing.
-The book which has the dragon on the cover is my favorite.
-The stray cat that I pet sometimes is friendly.
-Those people whose names are on the list will go to camp.

Similar to a subordinate clause, an adjective clause is a dependent clause because it relies on the rest of the sentence to make sense. The phrase 'whose names are on the list' isn't a complete thought, so it wouldn't make sense all on its own.

5. What are noun clauses?

Next up on our journey of learning 'what is a clause in English?', we have noun clauses!

A noun clause is any clause that works in the same way as a noun. In other words, you could replace the clause with a noun, and it would still make sense. Noun clauses act in the same way as a noun or pronoun. It contains a subject and a verb, but not a complete thought, so it can't stand as its own sentence. A noun clause starts with a pronoun or a subordinating conjunction.

Here are some examples of noun clauses.

- Do you know what you're going to wear?
- Do you know what dress to wear?
- Do you know where the café is?
- The café where I work is just over there.

Clauses and their Types

Main or independent clause	Subordinate or dependent clause	Adjective or relative clause	Adverbial clause
Contains a subject, a verb, conveys a complete thought, and is also know as a complete sentences	Contains a subject and a verb but dose not express a complete thought..	A group of words that contains a subject and a verb and functions as a noun in a sentence is called noun clause.	An adverbial clause functions like an adverb. It gives information about the time, place, purpose of an action that occurred. They modify whole clauses
Noun clause	**Coordinate clause**	**Conditional clause**	**Principal clause**
The Adjective Clause performs the function of an adjective to qualify a noun or pronoun of the main clause.	Two or more independent clauses of equal value usually joined by coordinators. (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so,)	Conditional sentences consist of a main clause and a conditional clause.	A Clause is a the group of words but it is only a part of a sentence.

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6. What are adverb clauses?

An adverb clause is a dependent clause that doesn't make sense on its own. It relies on an independent clause to make sense. This is why they're sometimes called dependent adverb clauses. An adverb clause offers a description and modifies the sentence, similar to how an adverb does. It contains a subject and a verb, but it doesn't express a complete thought.

Examples of adverb clauses include:

- She walked slowly.
- She walked like an old lady.
- She walked as if she were heading to the gallows.

Next Lecture

Complementation

Optional Adverbials

Transformational relations

Intensive relationship

Multiple class membership of verbs

See Diagram on p:16 (it is important).

Adverb clauses

types	Use in sentences
time	All stood up when the President came.
place	She studies where I study
manner	Try to finish it as she has shown you.
reason	Since you recommend him, I am appointed day.
condition	We cannot get first division, unless we burn midnight oil.
extent	So far as I know, she is dullard.
comparison	She is as pretty as she is wise.
effect	Run fat so that you may not be late.
contrast	He is miserly though he is rich.
purpose	She works hard, so that she may get scholarship.