

**Lecture: Grammar-Level: 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

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**Group: 06**

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## **Clauses : Types and Functions**

### **The clause**

A clause is a group of related words containing a subject and a predicate

For example:

I will meet him in office.

The part of above sentence “I will meet him” is a clause because it has a subject(I) and a predicate(will meet him). The rest part of the above sentence “in office” lacks both subject and predicate (verb) such group of word is called phrase.

A clause may stand as a simple sentence or may join another clause to make a complex sentence. Therefore, a sentence consists of one, two or more clauses.

Examples:

- He is sleeping. (one clause)
- The kids were laughing at the joker. (one clause)
- The teacher asked a question, but no one answered. (two clauses)
- I am happy because I won a prize. (two clauses)
- I like Mathematics, but my brother likes Biology, because he wants to become a doctor. (three clauses)

### **Types of Clauses**

There are two major types of clauses *main* (or independent) clause and *subordinate* (or dependant) clause.

- He is buying a shirt which looks very nice.

The above sentence has two clauses “*He is buying a shirt*” and “*which looks very nice*”. The clause “*He is buying a shirt*” expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. Such a clause is called **main or independent clause**. While the clause “*which looks very nice*” does not express a complete thought and can’t stand as a sentence. It depends on another clause (main clause) to express complete idea. Such a clause is called **subordinate or dependent clause**.

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### Main or Independent Clause

Examples:

I met the boy who had helped me.

She is wearing a shirt which looks nice.

The teacher asked a question but no one answered.

He became angry and smashed the vase into pieces.

In the above sentences each underlined part shows main clause. It expresses complete thought and can stand as a sentence that is why a main or an independent clause is normally referred as a simple sentence.

### Subordinate or dependent Clause

Subordinate (or independent) clause is a clause which does not express complete thought and depends on another clause (main clause) to express complete thought. A sentence having a subordinate clause must have a main clause.

Example

He likes Chinese rice which tastes good.

I met the boy who had helped me.

I bought a table that costs \$ 100.

The teacher asked a question but no one answered.

### Types of Subordinate Clause

A subordinate (dependent) clause may function as a noun, an adjective or an adverb in sentence. On the basis of their function in a sentence, subordinate clauses can be divided in to following types.

1. Noun Clause
2. Adjective Clause.
3. Adverb Clause

### Noun Clause

A dependent clause that functions as a **noun** in a sentence is called a **noun clause**. A noun clause performs the same functions as a noun in a sentence.

Example:

What he did made a problem for his family.

In above sentence the clause “*what he did*” functions as a **noun**, hence it is a **noun clause**. A noun clause works as a noun that acts as a **subject**, **an object**, or a **predicate in a sentence**. A noun clause starts with words “that, what, whatever, who, whom, whoever, whomever”.

Examples:

Whatever you learn will help you in future. (noun clause as a subject)

What you said made me laugh. (noun clause as a subject)

Now I realize what he would have thought. (noun clause as an object)

## Adjective Clause

A dependent clause that functions as **an adjective** in a sentence is called **an adjective clause**. An adjective clause works like **adjective** in a sentence. The function of an adjective is **to modify (describe) a noun or a pronoun**.

Example:

He wears a shirt which looks nice.

The clause “*which looks nice*” is **an adjective clause** because it **modifies noun** “*shirt*” in the sentence.

Other examples:

I met the boy who had helped me.

An apple that smells bad is rotten.

The person who was shouting needed help.

## Adverb Clause

A dependent clause that functions as **an adverb** in a sentence is called **an adverb clause**. An adverb clause like an adverb **modifies a verb, an adjective clause or another adverb clause** in a sentence. It modifies (describes) the situation in the main clause in terms of **time, frequency** (how often), **cause and effect, contrast, condition, intensity** (to what extent).

The subordinating conjunctions used for adverb clauses are as follows:

**Time:** when, whenever, since, until, before, after, while, as, by the time, as soon as

**Cause and effect:** because, since, now that, as long as, so, so that,

**Contrast:** although, even, whereas, while, though

**Condition:** if, unless, only if, whether or not, even if, providing or provided that, in case

Examples:

Don't go before he comes.

He takes medicine because he is ill.

Although he tried a lot, he couldn't climb up the tree.

I will go to the school unless it rains.

You are safe as long as you drive carefully.

You can achieve anything provided that you struggle for it.