

Clause

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Clause:

A group of words with subject and [predicate](#) and that forms a part of a [sentence](#) is called a clause.

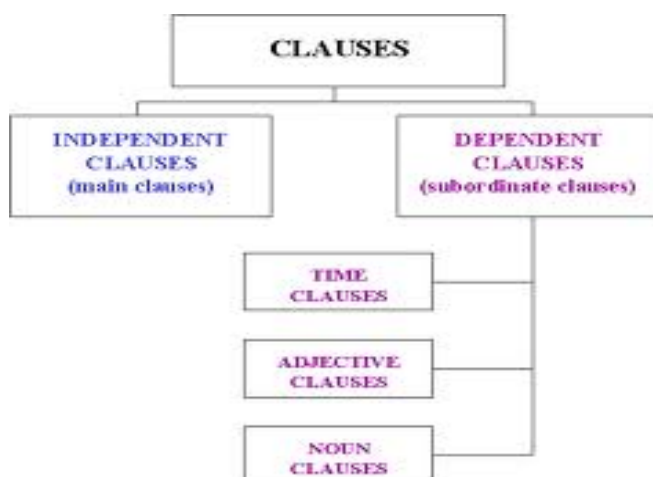


Example:

- He could not go to school because he was sick.

In this sentence, there are two clauses and they are

- 1) He could not go to school
- 2) Because he was sick.



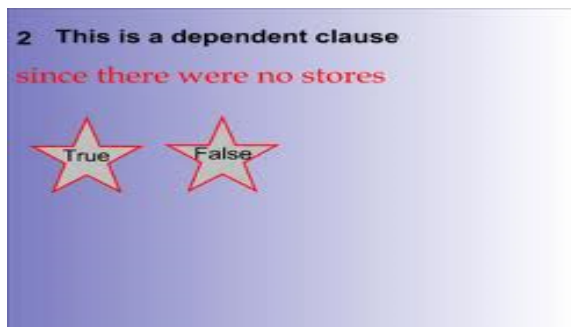
Types of Clauses:

Clauses can be classified as:

1. Dependent Clause
2. Independent Clause
3. Relative Clause
4. Adjective Clause
5. Adverb Clause
6. Noun Clause

Dependent Clause

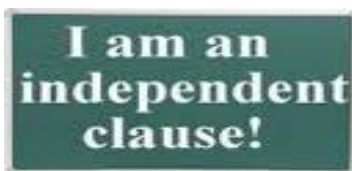
A dependent clause has a [subject](#) and a verb but it cannot stand on its own. It depends on the main clause in order to have a complete meaning.



Example:

- She failed **because she did not study**.
- In this sentence, she failed is the main clause.
- The clause **because she did not study** is the dependent clause.
- The clause **because she did not study** depends on the main clause in order to have a complete meaning.

Independent Clause



The main clause or independent clause can stand on its own and does not depend on any other clause to complete its meaning. It also has a subject and a [verb](#).

Example:

- We missed the train because we were late.

In this sentence we missed the train is the main clause. It stands on its own and does not depend on any other clause in the sentence.

Relative Clause

Relative clause also known as adjective clause does the function of an adjective in the sentence. It is introduced with a relative pronoun or a relative adverb and it has a subject and a verb.

Example:

- Do you know the old man who is chatting with Meena?

In this sentence, who is chatting with Meena is the relative clause.

Adjective Clause

Like an adjective, an adjective clause modifies a noun or a pronoun in a sentence. It is a group of words that always comes after the noun it modifies and a relative pronoun such as (who, that, which) connects the noun and the adjective clause. An adjective clause answers questions like “which?”, “what kind of?”

If the noun is a person	Relative pronoun should be who or that.
If the noun is a thing	Relative Pronoun should be which or that.

Example:

- Tom is the boy who taught me how to play football.

Here who taught me how to play football is the adjective clause.

Example:

- This is the computer which I bought yesterday.

Here which I bought yesterday is the adjective clause.

Adverb Clause

Like an adverb, an adverb clause does the work of an adverb in a sentence. It is a dependent clause as it cannot stand on its own.

Example:

- After he reached office, he called his mother.

Here after he reached office is an adverb clause.

Different kinds of adverb clauses are discussed below:

Type	Example	Question Asked
Place	After he went to Paris, he started to live in an apartment.	Where?
Time	Before he went out, he switched off all the lights.	When?
Purpose	She completed her Masters,so that she can get a good job.	Why?
Cause	I could not go therebecause I was sick.	Why?

Note that words like after, before, so that, because are used to introduce the adverb clauses. These words are called subordinate conjunctions.

Noun Clause

Like a noun, a noun clause performs the action of a noun in a sentence. It can play a role of subject,object of a verb, or object of a preposition, subject complement. It answers questions like “who” or “what?” Noun clauses are often introduced by words like that, why, whom, what, how, where, whoever, when.

Example:

- You should learn from what you did.

In this sentence, **what you did** is the object of the preposition.

- **Ram did not understand what Ramesh told him.**

In this sentence, **what Ramesh told him** is the object of the verb.

Difference between Phrases and Clauses

A phrase is a group of words that do not contain subject or predicate.

Example:

- **The man lived in the woods.**

In the woods is the phrase in the sentence. It does not contain a subject or predicate. It is just a group of words and cannot stand on its own.

A Clause is a group of words that contains a subject, verb, and a predicate. Clauses can be dependent or independent. Independent clauses can stand on its own but dependent clauses cannot.

Example:

- **He is going to the restaurant, and he will eat food there.**
- In this sentence, there are two clauses. One is **He is going to the restaurant** and the other one is **and he will eat food there**. The two clauses contain subject, predicate, verb.

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Reference Links:

- <http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/clause.htm>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_clause
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/598/01/>
- <http://www.writingcentre.uottawa.ca/hypergrammar/claustyp.html>
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