

## Types of clauses you must know

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When you are [learning English](#), you will come across many such words that have more than one meaning. To master those words, you need to understand how the words make sense when used together and not separately.

In grammar, a **clause** is the smallest grammatical unit that can express a complete proposition. Learning about clauses is very important in grammar.

# CLAUSES

A clause is something that helps us express, in the form of spoken words or written text. It is a group of related words which includes a subject and a verb. Unlike a phrase, a clause can express what the sentence is all about with the existence of a subject and when we include a verb, we can tell what the subject is doing.

### There are four types of clauses:

Independent clause  
Dependent clause  
Relative clause  
Noun clause

#### 1) Independent clause:

This clause is all by its own. It is also called as a main clause. It doesn't need any other word or sentence to pile up with it. This clause itself can make a complete sentence. It has a subject and a predicate (verb) to tell you what exists and what is going on. These sentences can be very simple and yet fulfill the complete thought through it. For instance,

“Christi's daughter went to play badminton”. Here the subject is ‘daughter’ and the verb is ‘playing’.

Let's take more examples to make things clear:

- John loves to kick the ball.
- Emma loves to cook food.
- His dog loves chicken wings.

#### 2) Dependent clause:

Dependent clause is contrary to independent clause. These clause cannot stand alone. They are completely dependent on the other clause, or to be precise, an independent clause to make the sentence a meaningful one. A dependent clause falls in the category of a subordinate conjunction. This clause starts with a

subordinate conjunction like where, because, whereas, as, although and many more. Examples,

- Because she loves to cook.
- Where the days are dark.
- Though she took away my dog.

Those sentences above are incomplete. By adding a main clause to the subordinate clause, it becomes a complete sentence.

- Although she loves to cook, she did not give up cooking.
- Where the days are dark, things are going to get horrific.
- Though she took away my dog, I would not go behind her to find him.

### 3) Relative clause:

It comes under the category of dependent clause. This type of clause consists of a relative pronoun like whom, whose, who, which etc., or a relative adverb like when, where or why. The sentence forming will be an answer and not an interrogation. For instance,

- She like those bags which are comfortable as per her requirement.
- Jack loves Harley Davidson which looks stunning on road and off road.
- Ram would join the course when he is done with his exams.

### 4) Noun clause:

These clauses are the one which are related to the nouns. It functions as a noun. It can also be a subject in a sentence. Noun clause also has relative pronouns. Though they belong to dependent clause, they do not stand alone, they too need an independent clause. For instance,

- What I had in the morning, was not enough to fill my stomach.
- I really want to know when she leaves the college.
- Adrian has no clue why his son is acting so weird.

<b>WHO</b>	is used to describe people
<b>THAT</b>	is used to describe people & things
<b>WHOSE</b>	is used for possessive sentences
<b>WHEN</b>	is used for time
<b>WHERE</b>	is used for places

With the above information about the clauses and its types, you come to know how important it is to [learn English](#) and how you can attract the reader to read more. Joining an online spoken English course can help you [improve your English](#) overcome these issues and master the language.

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**-By Chander Madan**

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