

# CLAUSES

Clauses come in four types: **main** [or *independent*], **subordinate** [or *dependent*], **adjective** [or *relative*], and **noun**. Every clause has *at least* a **subject** and a **verb**.

A clause can be a complete sentence or partial sentence, as long as the subject + verb criteria is met.

## MAIN CLAUSE.

Peter (subject) drinks (verb) soda. Is a main clause but also an independent clause (a complete sentence).

The man (subject) walked (verb) down the street to meet his friend.

We (subject) enjoyed (verb) our holiday.

## SUBORDINATE CLAUSE.

Subordinate clauses cannot stand alone as complete sentences, they must be attached to a main clause to be grammatically correct.

Because he was sick. (This is not a complete sentence so it is a subordinate clause and must be attached to a main clause.

Whenever he leaves the house.

So he could ride the bus.

## RELATIVE CLAUSE.

Are incomplete sentences which begin with pronouns such as :

Who which whom whose that.

Whose daughter goes to college is a relative clause.

Whose = pronoun daughter = subject goes = verb.

This is put with a main clause.

The man ,whose daughter goes to college, lives across the road.

He is the man, who won the talent competition.

These are the photos, which we took while on vacation.

We bought the house , that we looked at last year.

## NOUN CLAUSE.

Any clause that has the function of a noun is a noun clause.

The subject of the sentence is usually a noun, so a clause that provides the subject information is a noun clause.

He can see it but he doesn't know what it is.(object noun clause)

What you think (subject noun clause)is of no consequence to me.

How he survives (subject noun clause)on his salary god only knows.

That he is a good student ( subject noun clause)pleases his parents.

### **A Noun clauses can begin with ...**

1. ... a question word:  
where he lives  
what one says  
who the man is  
how she survives
2. ... “whether” or “if”  
whether she will stay  
if she will stay
3. ... a question word + TO infinitive  
what to say  
where to meet
4. ... “that”  
that he is innocent  
that she knows three languages

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