

Clauses

A clause is a group of words with its own subject and verb. Clauses enrich your written and oral expression by adding details and making your meaning more exact. Clauses also allow you to combine ideas; this adds logic and cohesion to your speech and writing.

There are two types of clauses:

- **Independent clauses** or **Main clauses** are complete sentences and express complete thought.
- **Dependent clauses** or **Subordinate clauses** are part of a sentence, they do not express a complete thought, so they can't stand alone.

A dependent clause often starts with a word that makes the clause unable to stand alone, this word is called: **subordinating conjunction**.

Eg: (You should visit the Parthenon) **when you are in Greece**.

Main clause

Subordinate clauses

Subordinating conjunctions link an independent clause to a dependent clause. Each Subordinating conjunction expresses a relationship between the dependent clause and the independent clause, for example:

| <u>subordinating conjunction</u> | <u>Relationship</u> |
|---|----------------------------|
| Unless, provided that, if, even..... | Condition |
| Because, as, as if..... | Reason |
| Rather than, than, whether... | Choice |
| But, though, although..... | Contrast |
| Where, wherever.... | Location |

1. **Adverb clause:**

An **Adverb clause** is a clause that describes a **verb**, **adjective**, or other **adverb**. It answers these questions: Where? When? Why? Under what condition? In what manner? To what extent?

Eg: 1. **Wherever Kate goes**, she leaves broken hearts behind.
2. John liked the meal more **than kate did**.
3. Harvey wanted to change his appearance **because he was wanted for robbery**.

1. **Adjective clause:**

An **Adjective clause** is a clause that describes a **noun**, or **pronoun**. It answers these questions:

What kind? Which one? How many? How much?

Eg: 1. The traffic is never light on the days **when I'm in a hurry.**

2. We selected the candidates **who were best qualified for the job.**

Adjective clauses that begin with one of the relative pronouns: (who, whom, whose, which, that) are called **relative clauses**.

Eg: 1. Mr Harris, **whose son is an athlete,** is used to having his home filled with sporting equipment.

2. The person **of whom you spoke** is my cousin.

3. **Noun clause:**

A noun clause is a dependent clause that functions as a **noun (Subject or Object)**.

Eg: 1. Tracey does **whatever her parents ask her to do.** (Object noun clause)

2. The teacher did not accept my excuse **that the dog ate my homework.** (Object noun clause).