

# Clauses and Complex Sentences

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### **PRETEST** Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences

*Write simple, compound, or complex to identify each sentence.*

1. It can be fun to write in a diary or a journal.
2. Keep your diary or journal in a safe place, and you can enjoy reading it a year or more from now.
3. Both famous people and everyday people have kept diaries.
4. Samuel Pepys was a British official who kept a diary during the 1600s.
5. He wrote the diary in shorthand; the diary was decoded over one hundred years later.
6. He wrote about the Great Plague that killed thousands of people in London during the 1660s.

7. His diary gave an account of the Great Fire of London, which raged through the city in 1666.
8. According to reports, the fire caused only six deaths, but it did destroy most of London.
9. Pepys also wrote about many other things, including his own ideas and gossip about other people.
10. Like Pepys, you can write a diary about the world around you and about yourself, or you may just want to keep a simple record of your own life.

## PRETEST Adjective, Adverb, and Noun Clauses

Identify each italicized clause by writing adjective, adverb, or noun.

11. Road maps, *which show roadways*, can be fascinating.
12. *When you travel by car*, take a road atlas with you.
13. It has maps for all states *that are in the United States*.
14. You can find a road map for *wherever you want to go*.
15. Maps *that have other purposes* have different keys.
16. Maps *that you see on TV* may show the weather.
17. Most maps include a compass rose, *which indicates north, south, east, and west*.
18. A political map labels *whatever countries and cities are located in the area*.
19. Political maps show places *that people have established*.
20. *Before you use a map*, read its title and its legend.
21. They show *what a map's purpose is*.
22. Some maps provide information *that others do not*.
23. *If you want to know about the natural resources of a state*, you would use a thematic map on that subject.
24. A topographic map shows *which are the highest mountains*.
25. You can find out *where most people live* by reading a population-density map.

## 8.1 SENTENCES AND CLAUSES

A **sentence** is a group of words that has a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.

**A simple sentence has one complete subject and one complete predicate.**

The **complete subject** names whom or what the sentence is about. The **complete predicate** tells what the subject does or has. Sometimes the complete predicate tells what the subject is or is like. The complete subject or the complete predicate or both may be compound.

COMPLETE SUBJECT	COMPLETE PREDICATE
People	travel.
Neither automobiles nor airplanes	are completely safe.
Travelers	meet new people and see new sights.
Trains and buses	carry passengers and transport goods.

**A compound sentence contains two or more simple sentences. Each simple sentence is called a main clause.**

**A main clause has a subject and a predicate and can stand alone as a sentence.**

Main clauses can be connected by a comma and a conjunction, by a semicolon, or by a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb. The conjunctive adverb is followed by a comma. In the following examples, each main clause is in black. The connecting elements are in blue type.

**EXAMPLE** Many people live in cities, **but** others build houses in the suburbs. **[comma and coordinating conjunction]**

**EXAMPLE** Most people travel to their jobs; others work at home. **[semicolon]**

**EXAMPLE** Companies relocate to the suburbs; **therefore**, more people leave the city. **[semicolon and conjunctive adverb]**

## PRACTICE Identifying and Punctuating Simple and Compound Sentences

Write each sentence. Underline each main clause. Add commas or semicolons where they're needed. Write simple or compound to identify the sentence.

1. Roads and highways seem especially crowded today.
2. New highways are being built however each new highway becomes quickly clogged with traffic too.
3. Even cities with good public transportation systems have too much traffic on their roads and highways.
4. One solution is for people to carpool nevertheless people seem reluctant to do this.
5. Another solution is to install or expand public transportation but this is expensive.
6. Not only is building public transportation expensive but many people just won't use it.
7. People use cars to go to school or work or to run errands.
8. People avoid carpools and public transportation they want to be independent.
9. They prefer using their own vehicles.
10. In the United States, more than 1.5 trillion miles are traveled by automobiles each year.

## 8.2 COMPLEX SENTENCES

A **main clause** has a subject and a predicate and can stand alone as a sentence. Some sentences have a main clause and a subordinate clause.

A **subordinate clause** is a group of words that has a subject and a predicate but does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence. A subordinate clause is always combined with a main clause in a sentence.

A **complex sentence** has one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

In each complex sentence that follows, the subordinate clause is in blue type.

**EXAMPLE** Mariah, **who moved here from Montana**, is very popular.

**EXAMPLE** **Since Mariah moved to Springfield**, she has made many new friends.

**EXAMPLE** Everyone says **that Mariah is friendly**.

Subordinate clauses can function in three ways: as adjectives, as adverbs, or as nouns. In the examples, the first sentence has an adjective clause that modifies the noun *Mariah*. The second sentence has an adverb clause that modifies the verb *has made*. The third sentence has a noun clause that is the direct object of the verb *says*. Adjective, adverb, and noun clauses are used in the same ways one-word adjectives, adverbs, and nouns are used.

**NOTE** A **compound-complex sentence** has two or more main clauses and one or more subordinate clauses.

## **PRACTICE** Identifying Simple and Complex Sentences

*Write each sentence. Underline each main clause once and each subordinate clause twice. Write simple or complex to identify the sentence.*

1. It can be fun to stay in a big hotel, even though it is often expensive.
2. Hotels that have swimming pools are common.
3. Many hotels also have workout rooms, which are like small gymnasiums.
4. Of course, large hotels have at least one restaurant.
5. You can get room service so you can eat in your room.
6. In some hotels, someone turns your bed down in the evening and leaves candy on your pillow.
7. You don't even have to carry your own luggage.

8. When you check in or out, a hotel employee will carry your bags for you.
9. That person also shows you everything in your room.
10. Give the person a tip because he or she works hard.

## 8.3 ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

An **adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun in the main clause of a complex sentence.

**EXAMPLE** The Aqua-Lung, **which divers strap on**, holds oxygen.

**EXAMPLE** The divers breathe through a tube **that attaches to the tank**.

Each subordinate clause in blue type is an adjective clause that adds information about a noun in the main clause. An adjective clause is usually introduced by a relative pronoun. The relative pronoun *that* may refer to people or things. *Which* refers only to things.

### RELATIVE PRONOUNS

that	which	who	whom	whose
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An adjective clause can also begin with *where* or *when*.

**EXAMPLE** Divers search for reefs **where much sea life exists**.

**EXAMPLE** Herb remembers the day **when he had his first diving experience**.

A relative pronoun that begins an adjective clause is often the subject of the clause.

**EXAMPLE** Some divers prefer equipment **that is lightweight**.

**EXAMPLE** Willa is a new diver **who is taking lessons**.

In the first sentence, *that* is the subject of the adjective clause. In the second sentence, *who* is the subject of the adjective clause.

## PRACTICE Identifying Adjective Clauses

Write each adjective clause. Underline the subject of the adjective clause. Then write the word the adjective clause modifies.

1. Scientists who specialize in ancient history continue to discover new information.
2. Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome, which thrived at different times, had complex societies.
3. Recently some archaeologists have changed their opinions about the people who built Egypt's pyramids.
4. They may have been ordinary people who lived nearby rather than slaves.
5. The pyramids, which took years to build, were tombs.
6. These structures that stand near the Nile are imposing.
7. Imhotep, who was a great architect, was the designer and builder of the first pyramid.
8. It was a step pyramid, which was built about 4,600 years ago in Memphis, an ancient Egyptian city.
9. The builders used no wheels, which were invented later.
10. Workers dragged the huge stones that were put on sleds.

## 8.4 ESSENTIAL AND NONESSENTIAL CLAUSES

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Read the example sentence. Is the adjective clause in blue type needed to make the meaning of the sentence clear?

**EXAMPLE** The girl **who is standing beside the coach** is our best swimmer.

The adjective clause in blue type is essential to the meaning of the sentence. The clause tells *which* girl is the best swimmer.

**An essential clause is a clause that is necessary to make the meaning of a sentence clear. Don't use commas to set off essential clauses.**

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Now look at the adjective clause in this sentence.

**EXAMPLE** Janice, **who is standing beside the coach**, is our best swimmer.

In the example, the adjective clause is set off with commas. The clause is nonessential, or not necessary to identify which swimmer the writer means. The clause simply gives additional information about the noun it modifies.

**A nonessential clause is a clause that is not necessary to make the meaning of a sentence clear. Use commas to set off nonessential clauses.**

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In this book, adjective clauses that begin with *that* are always essential, and adjective clauses that begin with *which* are always nonessential.

**EXAMPLE** Were you at the meet **that** our team won yesterday?  
[essential]

**EXAMPLE** That meet, **which** began late, ended after dark.  
[nonessential]



## PRACTICE Identifying and Punctuating Adjective Clauses

Write each sentence. Underline the adjective clause. Add commas where they're needed. Write essential or non-essential to identify each adjective clause.

1. Dinosaurs were huge creatures that lived on Earth millions of years ago and then disappeared.
2. The word *dinosaur* is from Greek words that mean "terrifying lizard."
3. A fearsome dinosaur was *Tyrannosaurus rex* which was a huge meat-eater.
4. Sue Hendrickson who is an amateur fossil hunter found an almost-complete skeleton of a tyrannosaur.
5. Today those bones are displayed at the Field Museum of Natural History which is in Chicago.
6. The dinosaur that many people once called a brontosaurus is now known as an apatosaurus.
7. This dinosaur which had a long neck was a plant eater.
8. Scientists who have studied dinosaurs do not always agree about the reasons for their disappearance.
9. Scientists who visit fossil sites learn about dinosaurs.
10. Some dinosaurs may have traveled in herds that roamed vast areas.

## 8.5 ADVERB CLAUSES

An **adverb clause** is a subordinate clause that often modifies the verb in the main clause of a complex sentence.

An adverb clause tells *how*, *when*, *where*, *why*, or *under what conditions* the action occurs.

**EXAMPLE** **After we won the meet**, we shook hands with our opponents.

**EXAMPLE** We won the meet **because we practiced hard**.

In the first sentence, the adverb clause *After we won the meet* modifies the verb *shook*. The adverb clause tells

*when* we shook hands. In the second sentence, the adverb clause *because we practiced hard* modifies the verb *won*. The adverb clause tells *why* we won the meet.

An adverb clause is introduced by a subordinating conjunction. A subordinating conjunction signals that a clause is a subordinate clause and cannot stand alone.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS			
after	because	though	whenever
although	before	till	where
as	if	unless	whereas
as if	since	until	wherever
as though	than	when	while

Use a comma after an adverb clause that begins a sentence. You usually don't use a comma before an adverb clause that comes at the end of a sentence.

**NOTE** Adverb clauses can also modify adjectives and adverbs.

## **PRACTICE** Identifying Adverb Clauses

*Write each adverb clause. Underline the subordinating conjunction. Then write the verb the adverb clause modifies.*

1. Tim sometimes baby-sits for a neighbor's children after he comes home from school.
2. Although he has homework to do, he can earn some money and have fun by taking kids to the park.
3. He does his homework after he returns home.
4. He is usually available to baby-sit whenever Mrs. Anderson calls him.

5. The children like Tim because he plays with them.
6. They stay at the park until Mrs. Anderson comes home.
7. If it rains, they play in the Andersons' apartment.
8. The children feel as though Tim is their older brother.
9. Since Tim has been baby-sitting for them, he and the children have invented several new games.
10. Tim has more money since he has been baby-sitting.

## 8.6 NOUN CLAUSES

**A noun clause** is a subordinate clause used as a noun.

Notice how the subject in blue type in the following sentence can be replaced by a clause.

**EXAMPLE** **A hockey player** wears protective equipment.

**EXAMPLE** **Whoever plays hockey** wears protective equipment.

The clause in blue type, like the words it replaces, is the subject of the sentence. Because this kind of clause acts as a noun, it's called a noun clause.

You can use a noun clause in the same ways you use a noun—as a subject, a direct object, an indirect object, an object of a preposition, and a predicate noun. In most sentences containing noun clauses, you can replace the noun clause with the word *it*, and the sentence will still make sense.

HOW NOUN CLAUSES ARE USED	
SUBJECT	<b>Whoever plays hockey</b> wears protective equipment.
DIRECT OBJECT	Suzi knows <b>that ice hockey is a rough game.</b>
INDIRECT OBJECT	She tells <b>whoever will listen</b> her opinions.
OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION	Victory goes to <b>whoever makes more goals.</b>
PREDICATE NOUN	This rink is <b>where the teams play.</b>

Here are some words that can introduce noun clauses.

WORDS THAT INTRODUCE NOUN CLAUSES		
how, however	when	who, whom
if	where	whoever, whomever
that	whether	whose
what, whatever	which, whichever	why

**EXAMPLE** **Whoever you choose** will look fine.

**EXAMPLE** **What I wonder** is **why she said that**.

**EXAMPLE** I don't know **who left this package here**.

**EXAMPLE** Ask the teacher **if this is the right answer**.

**EXAMPLE** Promise **whoever calls first** a special bonus.

**EXAMPLE** He worried about **what he had done**.

## **PRACTICE** Identifying Noun Clauses

*Write each noun clause. Then write subject, direct object, indirect object, object of a preposition, or predicate noun to tell how the noun clause is used.*

1. Whoever signs up can go on the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C.
2. Most kids know that Washington is a fascinating city.
3. Washington is where Congress meets.
4. Here the Supreme Court justices listen to whatever case is before them.
5. The tour guide gave whoever wanted one a map of the city's sites.
6. I can tell you which documents are exhibited in the National Archives Building.
7. Do you know whether we are touring the White House?
8. Find out when the National Gallery of Art opens today.
9. We learned about how the British burned the White House.
10. Museums for whatever interests you are located here.

**PRACTICE Proofreading**

*Rewrite the following passage, correcting errors in spelling, capitalization, grammar, and usage. Add any missing punctuation. Write legibly to be sure one letter is not mistaken for another. There are ten mistakes.*

**Jackie Joyner-Kersey**

<sup>1</sup>Many people think that Jackie Joyner-Kersey is the best female athlete in the world. <sup>2</sup>In the Olympics, she have won two gold, one silver, and two bronze medals? <sup>3</sup>She was the first woman to score more than seven thousand points in the heptathlon which is made up of seven events.

<sup>4</sup>Joyner-Kersey's career began, when she won her first National Junior Pentathlon Championship at the age of sixteen. <sup>5</sup>She played several sports in high school but she won a basketball scholarship to the University of California at los angeles. <sup>6</sup>Her coach there, Bob Kersey, encouraged her to compete in various events he eventually married her.

<sup>7</sup>Joyner-Kersey's brother, Al Joyner, was also an Olympian <sup>8</sup>He was married to Olympic champion Florence Griffith Joyner who was called "Flo-Jo" by fans.

**POSTTEST Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences**

*Write simple, compound, or complex to identify each sentence.*

1. Zebras seem to be small striped horses, but they are quite different from horses.
2. Although some people—including animal handlers—have tried to tame zebras, they are almost impossible to tame.

3. Zebras remain wild, as do many other animals in the world.
4. Stripes help hide zebras from human hunters and other predators.
5. Zebras are found wild in Africa; they don't exist naturally on any other continent.
6. Like horses and some other animals, zebras graze on grasses.
7. Zebras can be vicious; they are tough fighters.
8. Other than human hunters, the zebra's main enemy is the lion, which stalks the zebra on the grassy plains.
9. The small family groups in which zebras live are comprised of stallions, mares, and their foals.
10. Although zebras are beautiful animals, people should avoid approaching them under any circumstance.

### POSTTEST Adjective, Adverb, and Noun Clauses

Identify each italicized clause by writing adjective, adverb, or noun.

11. Most people *who like animals* like zoo animals and house pets.
12. *Whichever pet they choose* is likely to become their favorite.
13. People *who have big yards* can choose big dogs.
14. Someone *who lives in a condominium* must obey the rules of the condo's governing association.
15. *Although Samuel Tilden won the popular vote in 1876*, he did not become president.
16. The Alamo, *which is an old mission*, was a battle site during the Mexico-Texas conflict in 1836.
17. Do most people know *who their congressperson is*?

18. In 2000, Sydney, Australia, was *where the Summer Olympics were held*.
19. Misty Hyman is an American swimmer *who won the gold medal in the women's 200-meter butterfly event*.
20. *Before the city will issue dog licenses*, the animals must have had their rabies shots.
21. *Although the candidates debated*, their stances on the issues were still unclear.
22. *Whatever you want* can be found on the Web.
23. The coach and players reviewed *what the team did right to win the game*.
24. Oregon, *which is on the Pacific Coast*, became a state in 1859.
25. Napoleon served as the emperor of France *until he was exiled to Elba in 1814*.