



Chapter

13

Complex Sentences

When you talk, you use all kinds of sentence structures. You do not even think about them. When you write, you need to be more aware of how you express your thoughts. You need to write sentences that make your meaning clear. This is because your reader cannot ask you to explain your ideas.

You know that a simple sentence is an independent clause. An independent clause expresses one complete thought. You have learned that a compound sentence has two independent clauses joined by a conjunction. You also know that a dependent clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb. A dependent clause does not express a complete idea. A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.

In this chapter, you will learn more about dependent clauses and sentence structure. This chapter focuses on different kinds of dependent clauses. You will learn how they are used to form complex and compound-complex sentences.

Goals for Learning

- ▶ To distinguish among a word, a phrase, and a clause
- ▶ To distinguish among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences
- ▶ To distinguish among adverb, noun, and adjective clauses
- ▶ To distinguish between a complex and a compound-complex sentence

Phrase

A group of words without a subject and a verb. A phrase relates to another part of the sentence.

Before you learn about complex sentences, it is important to recall the meanings of three important terms: *word*, *phrase*, and *clause*.

A word is a set of letters that has meaning.

A **phrase** is a group of words that work together. A phrase does not have a subject and a verb.

Clause

A group of words that has a subject and a predicate. A clause may be independent or dependent.

EXAMPLES

Prepositional phrase: across the road

Verb phrase: has been

A **clause** is a group of words with a subject and a verb.

EXAMPLE

Clause: Unless there is a problem

Activity A Write on your paper whether each group of words is a *phrase* or a *clause*.

- 1) Over the river.
- 2) If he leaves.
- 3) Will have been late.
- 4) The youngest girl in school.
- 5) Whoever wants an apple.

There are two kinds of clauses: independent clauses (complete ideas) and dependent clauses (incomplete ideas).

Dependent clause

A dependent clause does not express a complete idea and cannot stand alone as a sentence.

An independent clause is a sentence. It expresses a complete thought.

A **dependent clause** has a subject and a verb, but it is not a sentence. A dependent clause is introduced by either a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun.

Remember that subordinating conjunctions are words like *because, if, when, and since*. Relative pronouns are words like *that, which, who, whoever, and what*.

EXAMPLE

Independent clause: Marco walked home.

Dependent clause: Because he missed the bus

Activity B Write on your paper whether each group of words is a *dependent clause* or an *independent clause*.

- 1) Whom you asked.
- 2) That girl is in my class.
- 3) Until he knows all the answers.
- 4) The team exercised before practice.
- 5) Whoever finishes first.

Activity C Write on your paper the word that introduces the dependent clause in each of these sentences.

- 1) Because Shelly left school late, she missed the bus.
- 2) I will fix dinner if you are hungry.
- 3) Joey hoped that the band would win first place.
- 4) Rick admires the man who coaches his team.
- 5) What Angela said was not clear to everyone.
- 6) Since he didn't try out for a part, he won't be in the play.
- 7) We will start the movie when Tony and Maria arrive.
- 8) The witness told the police what she had seen.
- 9) Hank's Restaurant is closed while the owner looks for a new cook.
- 10) If that coat goes on sale, I will buy it.

Lesson 1 Review

Part A Write on your paper whether the word in bold in each of these sentences introduces a *phrase* or a *clause*.

- 1) We huddled in the cabin **as** the snow fell.
- 2) She won't be back **until** tomorrow.
- 3) Everyone has arrived **except** Jody and Bill.
- 4) I can't leave **until** I finish my report.
- 5) **When** you know the answer, raise your hand.

Part B Write on your paper whether the clause in bold is an *independent clause* or a *dependent clause*. Remember, an independent clause can stand alone as a sentence.

- 1) **After the party was over**, we cleaned up and went to bed.
- 2) Please take this to the woman **who lives next door**.
- 3) **I am so glad** that you made the team.
- 4) **This is the last time** that I give advice to anyone.
- 5) **Because the store went out of business**, many people in town lost their jobs.
- 6) Everyone stood up and clapped **when Stephanie finished her speech**.
- 7) Greg and the girl **who gives him a ride to school every day** live on the same street.
- 8) If you wait just a minute, **I'll walk with you to the bus**.
- 9) Peter took us for a ride in his new car, **which he bought himself**.
- 10) **Ask the girl** who is standing at the gate.

Adverb clause

A dependent clause that works exactly like an adverb in a sentence.

An **adverb clause** is a group of words with a subject and a verb. An adverb clause is a dependent clause that works exactly like an adverb in a sentence. It tells something about the verb.

EXAMPLES

- Adverb: Rick went home **early**.
 Adverb phrase: Rick went home **after practice**.
 Adverb clause: Rick went home **when practice was over**.

Activity A Write on your paper whether the words in bold in each sentence are *adverbs*, *adverb phrases*, or *adverb clauses*.

- 1) Amy writes **well** and **often**.
- 2) Mom always knows exactly **where I put my things**.
- 3) **Except for you**, I haven't told anyone the news.
- 4) **Until you find your pen**, you can borrow mine.
- 5) I can hardly wait **until my birthday**.

Like adverbs, an adverb clause answers questions like *Where?* *When?* *Why?* *How much?* *How often?* and *How soon?*

EXAMPLES

- Where? Robin smiled **wherever she went**.
 When? **When practice is over**, Rick will go home.
 Why? Paula joined the band **because she likes music**.
 How much? Justin tried **as hard as he could**.
 How often? Mai practices the violin **whenever she has time**.

Activity B Write the adverb clause in each of these sentences.

- 1) Enrique runs whenever he can.
- 2) If he gets up early, he runs in the morning.
- 3) He runs because he enjoys it.
- 4) Unless it is raining hard, Enrique runs every day.
- 5) Because I injured my knee, I walk for exercise.

An adverb clause may answer questions about another adverb. These clauses act like adverbs of degree. They answer questions such as *How much?* or *How far?*

EXAMPLE

S	V	D.O.	Adv.	S	V
Roberto	hits	the ball	farther than anyone else can hit it.		

(How much farther can Roberto hit the ball? farther *than anyone else can*)

An adverb clause may also answer questions about an adjective. These clauses are also adverbs of degree.

EXAMPLE

S	V	Adj.	S	V
Sam	is	taller than the other boys in the class are.		

(How much taller is Sam? taller *than the other boys in the class are*)

Sometimes part of an adverb clause is missing. The missing part is understood.

EXAMPLES

Roberto hits the ball farther **than anyone else.**
(In the clause *than anyone else*, the words *can hit it* are understood.)

Sam is taller **than the other boys in the class.**
(In the clause *than the other boys*, the verb *are* is understood.)

Activity C Write the adverb clauses in each of these sentences. Add any words that are understood.

- 1) My dog can bark louder than any other dog on our street can.
- 2) Irene practices longer than anyone else.
- 3) Is Vicky taller than Beth?
- 4) Enrique ran farther than the others ran.
- 5) Charlotte is as happy as she can be!

Part A Write on your paper whether the words in bold in the sentences are *adverb phrases* or *adverb clauses*.

- 1) Toni has been deaf **since birth**.
- 2) **Because she and Lisa became friends**, Lisa learned sign language.
- 3) **If you wish to learn**, Toni will help you.
- 4) Lisa had never signed to anyone **but Toni**.
- 5) **After she has been signing for a while**, Lisa will be good at it.

Part B Write the adverb clause in each of these sentences on your paper. Add any words that are understood.

- 1) We will go to the beach when summer arrives.
- 2) Alexa bought a new bicycle because her old one fell apart.
- 3) You should get some rest if you are tired.
- 4) No one can run faster than Enrique.
- 5) That building is higher than any other city buildings.

Part C Write these sentences on your paper. Add an adverb clause to each sentence.

- 1) Angie and her brother went to the baseball game.
- 2) Rain had been falling.
- 3) The field was wet.
- 4) The game began.
- 5) Angie cheered louder.

Noun clause

A dependent clause that works exactly like a noun in a sentence.

A **noun clause** is a group of words with a subject and a verb. A noun clause is a dependent clause that works exactly like a noun in a sentence. It may have a predicate nominative or a direct object.

EXAMPLES

	S	L.V.	P. Adj.	
Subject:	What you did was wonderful.			
	S	L.V.	P.N.	
Predicate nominative:	That book is what I need.			
	S	V	D.O.	
Direct object:	I remember what you said.			
	S	V	I.O.	
Indirect object:	I gave whoever wanted some a piece of my pizza.			
	S	V	D.O.	O.P.
Object of preposition:	We made lunch for whoever was hungry.			

A noun clause may follow any of the six sentence patterns that you learned about before.

EXAMPLE

S	L.V.	P. Adj.	V
Whoever is ready should begin.			

(Whoever is the subject of the linking verb *is*.
The whole noun clause is the subject of the verb phrase *should begin*.)

Activity A Write on your paper whether the bold noun clause in each sentence is used as the *subject*, *predicate nominative*, *direct object*, *indirect object*, or *object of a preposition*.

- 1) The teacher said **that my answer was wrong**.
- 2) **Who will get the lead in the play** has not been decided.
- 3) They argued about **who should go first**.
- 4) This is **what I want**.
- 5) She offered **whoever was still around** a ride home.

A noun clause is introduced in a sentence by a relative pronoun.

Some Common Relative Pronouns	
that	who (subject)
what	whom (object)
whatever	whoever (subject)
whichever	whomever (object)
	whose (possessive)

The pronouns *that* and *what* have only one form. They do not change whether they are subjects or objects. The pronoun *who* does change, however.

- Use *who* when the relative pronoun is the subject of the noun clause.
- Use *whom* when the relative pronoun is the direct object or the object of a preposition in the noun clause.
- Use *who* when the relative pronoun is the predicate nominative in the noun clause.

EXAMPLES

S V D.O.

I remember **who** called me.

D.O. S V

I remember **whom** you called.

P.N. S L.V.

I remember **who** you are.

Activity B Write these sentences with the correct form of the relative pronoun.

- 1) I know (who, whom) called you.
- 2) I know (who, whom) you are.
- 3) I know (who, whom) you saw yesterday.
- 4) I know (who, whom) you invited to the dance.
- 5) I know for (who, whom) you bought that gift.

The relative pronoun *that* often introduces a noun clause. Sometimes it is left out of the sentence and is understood. Either way is correct.

EXAMPLES

Correct: Do you think **that he is nice**?

Correct: Do you think **he is nice**?

The other relative pronouns cannot be left out.

EXAMPLES

Correct: Did you hear **what I said**?

Incorrect: Did you hear **I said**?

Activity C Write each of these sentences on your paper. Underline the noun clause. Circle the relative pronoun. If the relative pronoun *that* is understood, write it in and circle it.

- 1) Do you know who found my book?
- 2) Raina found the book you lost.
- 3) What I really need are my notes!
- 4) I am offering a reward to whoever finds them.
- 5) Do you think Raina found my notes, too?

Activity D Write the noun clauses in each of these sentences on your paper. Beside each noun clause, write whether it is used as the *subject*, *predicate nominative*, *direct object*, *indirect object*, or *object of a preposition*.

Example What I said was not important.
What I said—Subject

- 1) I made supper for whoever wants some.
- 2) I knew that I would be late.
- 3) Some hot soup is what I need right now!
- 4) What you see is what you get!
- 5) The salesperson gave whoever was in the store a free CD.

Appositive

A word or group of words that renames or explains another noun in the same sentence.

An **appositive** renames or explains another noun in the same sentence. An appositive may be a noun, a noun phrase, or a noun clause. Look at each example below. The appositive is in italic. The noun that is renamed or explained by the appositive is in bold.

EXAMPLE

My friend *Anna* has a dog.

Meesh, *a toy poodle*, belongs to her.

Meesh's favorite **toy**, *a big rubber bone*, is under the chair.

I have a secret **wish**—*that I will someday be president*.

Activity E Write the appositive in each of these sentences. Beside each appositive, write the noun or nouns the appositive renames or explains.

- 1) Do you know who wrote this line: "All the world's a stage"?
- 2) Carlo's big advantage, his powerful leg muscles, kept him going.
- 3) People laughed at Columbus's idea—the thought that the world was round.
- 4) The nineteenth constitutional amendment—the amendment that allowed women voting rights—changed history.
- 5) Herbert Hoover, the thirty-first president, was an engineer.
- 6) Galileo's invention, the telescope, changed scientific method.
- 7) The bibliography, a list of books used for reference, appeared at the end of the report.
- 8) The price was more than I—a student with no regular income—could afford.
- 9) Kareem, the editor of the school newspaper, is also class president.
- 10) Friends since kindergarten, Rita and Marianne still enjoy each other's company.

Lesson 3 Review

Lesson Review Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the noun clause. Beside each sentence, write whether the noun clause is used as the *subject*, *predicate nominative*, *direct object*, *indirect object*, *object of a preposition*, or *appositive*.

Examples Did you hear **what she said**?—Direct Object

Sue told **whoever was around** her news.

—Indirect Object

- 1) We went shopping for whatever we needed.
- 2) I think that you can guess the answer.
- 3) That love conquers all is a lofty idea.
- 4) A glass of lemonade is what I need.
- 5) Mrs. Garret gave whoever asked for it more time for the test.
- 6) She said she's tired.
- 7) When the paper is due is not clear.
- 8) Where he was going was not known.
- 9) I know where he was going.
- 10) A good map is what he needs.
- 11) He will go on an errand for whoever asks him.
- 12) Adam offered whoever was struggling in math class some help with math.
- 13) People laughed at Tom's belief—that he could win the contest.
- 14) Pay for what you want.
- 15) Is this what the dog brought home?
- 16) Seth forgot where he put his book.
- 17) Tell me who is coming.
- 18) How Sue did the job was important.
- 19) What she will do next no one knows.
- 20) She showed whoever wanted a peek her latest painting.