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It really, really helps keep "the local patisseries afloat in the wake of the Walmarts." If you do, please let me know. If Grammar Monster doesn't have the lesson you need, let me know too – I'll write it! Thank you. Right, let's do some grammar... Craig Shrives Advanced Learners or Teachers Glossaries for Advanced Learners Popular Lessons for Advanced Learners Beginners or Kids Vocabulary Lessons for Beginners or Kids Spelling Lessons for Beginners or Kids Grammar Lessons for Beginners or Kids Games, Tests, and More List of Tests and Games Miscellaneous Lists Advanced Level Test Glossaries for Advanced Learners Popular Lessons for Advanced Learners 300 more grammar terms... Word Lists More word lists... Vocabulary Lessons for Beginners or Kids Spelling Lessons for Beginners or Kids Grammar Lessons for Beginners or Kids List of Tests and Games hundreds more tests and games... Miscellaneous Lists All of our lessons have confirmatory tests, which are editable and, if necessary, printable. To save paper, you can download the tests as Word documents for email attachments or as PowerPoints for classroom tests. You can even send the tests using messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Google Classroom, and Messenger. Read more about paper-free learning. You might also like... See our A-Z glossary Try our grammar tests and games Help us improve... Was something wrong with this page? Use #gm to find us quicker. Create a QR code for this, or any, page. XYouTubeFacebookmailing listgrammar forum The types of dependent clauses are:Noun ClausesAdverbial Clauses Adjective (Relative) Clauses Before we look at each of these, it's important to understand what dependent clauses, also known as subordinate clauses, are. You can also watch a video of this lesson: Subordinate Clauses Definition and Types A clause is a group of sentences that has a subject and verb combination. The two types are independent and dependent. This sentence has both an independent and dependent clause: He had to give up work because he injured his backIndependent Clause + Dependent (subordinate) Clause Both clauses have a subject and verb:But only the first one expresses a complete thought and can stand alone:He had to give up work (complete thought)Because he injured his back (incomplete thought)The second clause does not make sense if it is used without the first one, and so it is dependent on the first clause. It is therefore a dependent clause, also known as a subordinate clause. Noun Clauses This type of dependent clause is used in two main ways. The first way is using question word conjunctions (e.g. where, what, when) or if and whether to create implicit questions. The noun clause usually follows the main independent clause: I'm not sure where he went.They don't know when they will arrive.Can you recall if you picked up my wallet?I'm wondering whether I should go or not. The other way that noun clauses are used is in that clauses, usually to express some kind of mental state, necessity, possibility, or truth.'That' is often left out: I'm disappointed (that) you aren't comingThe Prime Minister is convinced (that) she'll win the electionI think (that) it was the right thing to doIt's essential (that) you study hardIt's likely (that) it will rain tomorrowShe is certain (that) her money was stolen Adverbial Clauses These types of dependent clauses act as adverbs and tell us something about the information that is in the main (independent) clause.These are some of the common purposes of adverbial causes and common subordinating conjunctions:Condition: if, unlessReason: because, since, asTime: before, after, while, as soon as, when, since, untilPurpose: in order to, so thatConcession: although, though, even though, while, whereasWith adverbial clauses, the dependent clause can go before or after the independent clause. Here are some examples of adverbial clauses: I will go if you go as wellAs it's his birthday, let's book a nice restaurantYou will lose weight as soon as you change your dietIn order to improve hospitals, there must be more investmentHe's upset he failed the test even though it's his own fault Learn more about 'If' Clauses >> Adjective / Relative Clauses The third type of dependent clause is the adjective or relative clause. It is acting as an adjective because it modifies a noun or pronoun. The clause will start with a relative pronoun e.g. which, who, that, whom, where, or whose.it usually comes directly after the noun it's modifying so unlike adverbial clauses, the position where it appears in the independent clause will vary.In these examples of adjective clauses, the noun being modified is underlined: The church, which is from the 14th Century, is very beautifulHe's the one who stole the carThe student that spoke in class was placed in detentionBristol is the city where I grew uplan, whose house is at the end of the street, hates living here. Can you identify the dependent clauses in this online quiz In this phrases and clauses quiz you have to decide in each sentence whether the highlighted part is a phrase or a clause. Phrases have no subject-verb, whereas clauses do. In this adverb clause quiz you need to place the correct adverb into the gap in order to complete the sentence. This will improve your ability to make adverbial clauses Sentence clauses are the building blocks of writing and you need to understand these for your academic writing. Join Us and get Free Grammar Tips into your Inbox! New! Comments Any questions or comments about the grammar discussed on this page?Post your comment here. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Study the groups of words in italics in the following sentences:They started at [Started when?]They started when morning came. [Started when?]In sentence 1, the group of words in italics, at dawn, does the work of an Adverb. It tells us when the action was done. In sentence 2, the group of words in italics, when morning came, also, modifies the Verb started and so does the work of an Adverb.In sentence 1, the group of words at dawn is an Adverb Phrase. It tells us when the action was done. In sentence 2, the group of words in italics, when morning came, is not an Adverb Phrase. It has a Subject (morning) and a Predicate (came when). So it is a Clause, and since it does the work of an Adverb, it is called an Adverb Clause.Study the following sentences:On her return to India, we asked her many questions.When she returned to India we asked her many questions.We notice that the Adverb Phrase, on her return to India is equivalent in meaning to the Adverb Clause, when he returned to India, and can therefore be replaced by it.Exercise 1: In the following sentences, replace the Adverb Phrases by Adverb Clauses.He always carried out his duties according to instructions.Her heart was too full for words.In spite of hard work we failed.He was welcomed on his return from the U.S.A.He ran with all his might.He did it to the best of his ability.Many people were so injured as to be wholly incurable.They fought in a heroic manner.They returned at sunset.In the event of the President's death, the Vice-President succeeds him.Exercise 2: In the following sentences replace the Adverb Clauses with Adverbs or Adverb Phrases.He considered himself rich enough though his income was only Rs 50,000 a year.He was not so rich that he could buy a motor car.The news is so good that it cannot be true.As soon as the thief saw the policeman, he ran away.Though he is poor, he is contented.He works hard that he may become rich.I am glad that he has recovered from his illness.No man can become rich unless he works hard.As he was ill, he did not attend the meeting.When she entered the room she saw the vase broken.II. 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But since it has a Subject and a Predicate of its own, it is an Adjective Clause.Read the following Sentence:A man of courage is respected everywhere.A man who is courageous is respected everywhere.Here the Adjective Phrase of courage is equivalent in meaning to the Adjective Clause, who is courageous and can therefore be replaced by it.Exercise 3: In the following sentences replace the Adjective Phrases by suitable Adjective Clauses.We all admire a man of industrious habits.Please tell me the time of his departure.This accident took place on the road leading to the station.The houses of the Kashmiris are generally built of wood.That city on the hill has an old temple.A man of regular habits is sure to win the esteem of all.People occupying the last benches could not hear me.The boy sitting near you is my cousin.You can have anything of your liking.The time of his arrival will be notified later on.Exercise 4: In the following sentences replace the adjective clauses by adjective or adjective phrasesA man who has diligent habits is sure to succeed.We all admire a man who is courageous.Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.A man who talks too much is seldom listened to.People who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others.The day when he departed is still remembered.The day when he must part is drawing near.Can you tell me the way that leads to the Taj?The day on which he was crowned is still observed as a holiday.The boy who is industrious will win the prize.III. NOUN CLAUSESStudy the groups of words in italics in the following sentences:They expected to win the match. [Expected what?]They expected that they would win the match. [Expected what?]The first group of words, to win the match, is the Object of the Verb expected. It, therefore, does the work of a Noun, and since it has no Subject and no Predicate of its own, it is a Noun Phrase.The second group of words, that they would win the match it also the Object of the Verb expected and so does the work of a Noun. But as it has a Subject and a Predicate of its own, it is called a Noun Clause.Examine the following sentences:He hopes to win the first prize.He hopes that he will win the first prize.In these sentences, the Noun Phrase, to win the first prize, is equivalent in meaning to the Noun Clause, that he will win the first prize, and can therefore be replaced by it.Exercise 5: In the following sentences replace the Noun Phrases by suitable Noun Clauses.The time of his coming is known to me.I heard of her failure.The reason of his sudden disappearance is not known.I know your great fondness for music.We hoped for your success.The captain foretold the coming of a violent storm.Who can doubt the truth of his statement?I believe him to be an honourable man.He expects to win a prize.I know your great regard for her.Exercise 6: Substitute either a Noun or Noun Phrase for the Noun Clause in each of the following sentences:Nobody expected that he would die.The jury declared that he was guilty.He expects that he will win a prize.I believe that the man is trustworthy.I appreciate that you love your country.The doctor is hopeful that he will soon recover.His friends believed that he was innocent.That he should fail surprises me.I hope that I shall reach there in time.We expect that there are three kinds of Clauses :The Adverb Clause which does the work of anThe Adjective Clause which does the work of anThe Noun Clause which does the work of aExercise 7: Pick out the Clauses in the following sentences, and say what kind each is.The shepherd found the sheep which has been lost.We expect that he will succeed.I know the place where he was born.A boy who does not play at all is a dull boy.Tell me what you have done. .You may go home when you have finished.The boy, who had red hair,.greeted me with a smiling face.When the function was over, we returned home.When she was at school, she won many prizes.Where there's a will there's a way.Can't you tell me what she wants?I do not know where he was born.I have lost the pen which you gave me yesterday.We all admire a man who has courage.This is the place where he was killed.Nobody knows where he was killed.We know where we are from.They told him the reason why he failed in his trial.We told her the reason why she failed in her attempt.I know the woman who did this.Why she did such a foolish thing, I cannot understand.I know the place where the climate is good.She lives where the climate is goodDo you know where the climate is good?Exercise 8: In each of the following sentences replace the words in italics by Clauses.I know the place of her birth.We met a girl with blue eyes.A man of courage succeeds everywhere.He told us the time of her departure.Do you know the road leading to the Taj?The girl sitting near her is her daughter.She expected to win a prize.I cannot understand the reason for her failure.At sunset we returned home.The time of her arrival nobody can tell.I know your great love for her.We can tell the purpose of her coming here.The sun having risen, they resumed their journey.The King ordered the traitor to be hanged.I do not believe her statement. Clause A part of a sentence having a subject and a finite verb (that means a verb with a particular tense form) is known as a clause. To understand it, look at the following sentence ; Many of the students promised that they had done the home work when asked by their teacher. In the above sentence, there are mainly two parts, Many of the students promised..... And ....that they had done the home work when asked by their teacher. In the first part of the above sentence, we can see the subject ' Many of the students' and the finite verb ' promised' (here the verb is in simple past tense). That is, as this part of the sentence has a subject and a finite verb, then this part can be considered as a clause. Now let's look at the second part ' Here, in this part also, we can see the subject 'they' and the finite verb 'had done'. So this part of the sentence can also be considered as a clause. Again, when we look at the first and the second clause in the above sentence separately, that is, 'Many of the students promised' we get a complete idea or meaning. But looking at the second part ' that they had done the home work when asked by their teacher. we don't get a complete idea but an incomplete meaning. So we can understand that, in a sentence , there may be clauses either giving a complete or an incomplete meaning. The clause that gives a complete meaning is called Main clause and The clause that gives an incomplete meaning is called Sub ordinate clause. So we can call the first part of the above sentence ' Many of the students promised...' as a Main clause. And The second part of the sentence, '....that they had done the home work when asked by their teacher' as a Sub ordinate clause. It should also be noted that sometimes a phrase may be there in a sentence, as the phrase 'when asked by their teacher' is seen in the subordinate clause of the above sentence. Phrase. A phrase is also a part of a sentence or a group of words having only a somewhat meaning but does not have a subject, a finite verb and a complete meaning. Here the phrase in the sentence 'when asked by their teacher' does not have a subject, a finite verb and a complete meaning. Here the past participle form 'asked' should not be misjudged as a finite verb , because it does not have a particular tense form. Anyway let's come again into the topic clauses. We have studied that there are two types of clauses. Definitions for both are given below:- A part of a sentence having a subject, a finite verb and a complete meaning is known as a Main clause. Main clause is also called as Principal clause. A part of a sentence having a subject, a finite verb and an incomplete meaning is known as a Sub ordinate clause. This clause is also called as Co-ordinate clause or supporting clause Here we should understand one thing that the sub ordinate clause or co-ordinate clause or supporting clause is further renamed or categorized in three types on the basis of the role that plays in a sentence as If a sub ordinate clause plays the role of a noun, then it is called as a Noun clause. We know that a noun can stand as a subject or an object in a sentence. If a noun does an action then the noun is termed as a subject , and also if a noun becomes the answer of the question 'what?' or 'to what?' or 'whom?' or 'to whom?' in a sentence, then the noun is termed as the object of the sentence. To understand it, let's analyse the following sentence Rakesh studies Grammar. Here in the sentence, we can see two nouns.. 'Rakesh' and 'Grammar'. In this sentence it is Rakesh who does the action studying. So the noun Rakesh stands as the subject of the sentence. When we ask the question 'what?' to the sentence we get the noun 'Grammar' as the answer. So, a noun clause can also stand as a subject or an object in a sentence as a noun can. To understand it, let's look at the following sentences. What my father advised helps me a lot. We can identify the part of the sentence What my father advised as a sub ordinate clause, as it has a subject my father , a finite verb advised and an incomplete meaning, and also the clause plays the role of a noun. So this clause can be considered as a noun clause. Also this noun clause acts as the subject of the sentence because the clause does the action helping. My friend told me that I looked handsome. Here the subordinate clause, that I looked handsome, plays the role of a noun. So it is a noun clause. And also in this sentence it gives the answer of the question 'what my friend told me ?'. So this noun clause stands as the object of the sentence. Thus, from the above facts, we can understand that, if a subordinate clause plays the role of a noun, then the clause is called as a noun clause. And also a noun clause can either stand as a subject or an object in a sentence. Coordinate clause or Adjective clause Eg, Adjective clause is a sub ordinate clause that qualifies a noun or a pronoun in a sentence. Eg, The boy who qualifies a noun or a pronoun in a sentence is known as a co-ordinate clause. Eg, The boy who qualifies a noun or a pronoun in a sentence is known as a co-ordinate clause. Eg, My friend who is working in a multinational company. Here, the subordinate clause who is working in a multinational company, is used to modify or tell about the noun friend. So this clause can be further named as an adjective clause. III Adverb clause:- A subordinate clause that plays the role of an adverb is known as an Adverb clause. That is, if a word that modifies or qualifies a verb can be named as an adverb, then the subordinate clause doing the same can be further named as an adverb clause. Eg, He looked back when I called him. Here the subordinate clause when I called him the time of the verb looking back. That is, the clause modifies or tells about the verb looking back. So this subordinate clause can be further called as an adverb clause. Adverb clause is classified into 8 types, as mentioned below, Adverb clause of result or consequence Adverb clause of condition Adverb clause of cause or reason Adverb clause of comparison Adverb clause of supposition or concession. © Academic Marker 2025 (4.1.17) What are common adjectives in American English? Adjectives account for some 20% of English word use. The English language has certain adjectives categorized into "common" and "proper," and you may come across something like "common adjectives." In English, some parts of speech can be classified as "common" and some as "proper." This is true in the case of nouns. To understand the term "common adjective," it is important to know what an adjective is. An adjective is any word that is used to describe a noun. Consequently, common adjectives are words that may describe a person or thing. Intriguingly enough, the word "common" is a common adjective! Common adjectives In the plainest terms, a common adjective is any adjective (describing word) that does not have a capital letter as its first letter. Grammatically, adjectives that are not meant to get capitalized are referred to as common adjectives. Unless an adjective begins a sentence, it is not used with its beginning letter capitalized. Consequently, all adjectives, or most of them, are common adjectives. The examples below show how common adjectives may be capitalized depending on sentence positions. Mary wore a beautiful gown of lace to the grand ball yesterday. Here, the gown is described with the adjective "beautiful" and the ball as "grand." The common adjective is in use in both positions here. Strong men are good in sports and other games. Here, "strong" is not in the class of common adjectives as it is capitalized as it begins a sentence. Nonetheless, "good" is a common adjective due to its placement in the middle of the sentence. Common adjectives Most of these adjectives in English speech and writing fall within the classification of common adjectives. As a result, the adjectives in use daily are common adjectives, such as those of color, quality, etc. The use of common adjectives is "very common." Nevertheless, there is a concept in grammar as the proper adjective, distinguished from the standard counterpart. So far, it is clear that the only time to capitalize an adjective is when it begins a sentence. Another rule of capitalization for adjectives is also present. This is when adjectives are "proper adjectives," like proper nouns. If an adjective is derived from a proper noun, the adjective will cease to be a common adjective. This derivation could be from someone's name, like Shakespeare. Note the examples of adjectives no longer considered in the "common adjective" category: The play was a Shakespearean enactment of Julius Caesar.The British man walked with a slow step and a cane. Here, both Shakespeare and British come from the names of men and countries, respectively. Consequently, they are proper adjectives and not common adjectives. In grammatical terminology, common adjectives are words with qualified nouns and pronouns. The categories that fall within the broad class of common adjectives include (commonly) the following: Adjectives of Quality – Beautiful, good, old, clever, peaceful, friendly, etc.Adjectives of Quantity – Two, whole, a lot, forty, 3 dozen, etc.Adjectives of Color – Red, blue, shaded, etc.Demonstratives – This, that, these, those, etc.Possessives – My, their, your, his, etc.Proper Adjectives – Mexican, Italian, Chinese, etc.Interrogative Adjectives – What, which, whose, etc.Numerals – Five, twelfth, etc.Adjectives with a common adjective: This dress has become filthy after the walk in the park.She ordered four dozen oranges to make orange juice at home.I don't think my mother will attend the party tonight.Which girl did he buy: the black or the blue?The film depicted the Egyptian era quite well. adorableadventurousaggressiveagreeableallertaliveamusedangryannoyedanoyinganxiousarrogantashamedattractiveaverageawfulbadbeautifulbetterbewilderedblackbloodyblueblue-eyedblushingboredbrainybravebreakablebrightbusycalmcarefulcautiouscharmingcheerfulcleanclearclevercloudyclumsycolorfulcombativecomfortableconcernedcondemnedconfusedcooperativecourageouscrazycreepycrowdedcruelcuriouscutedangerousdarkdeaddefeatedeffeatedeffiantdelightfuldepressedderternineddifferentdifficultdisgusteddistinctdisturbeddizzydoubtfuldrabdull eagereasyelatedelegantembarrassedenchantingencouragingenergeticentthusiasticenviousenvilexcitedexpensiveexuberantfairfaithfulfamousfancyfantasticfiercefilthyfinefoolishfragilefrailfranticfriendlyfrightenedfunnygentlegiftedglamorousgleaminggloriousgoodgorgeousgracefulgrievinggrotesquegrumpyhandsomehappyhealthyhelpfulhelplesshilariushomelesshomelyhorriblehungryhurtillimportantimpossibleinexpensiveinnocentinquisitiveitchyjealousjitteryjollyjoyouskind lazylightlivelylonelylongloveliluckymagnificentmistymodernmotionlessmuddymushymysteriousnastynaughtynervousneatutydedicatedfashionedpenoutrageousoutstandingpanickyperfectplainpleasantpoisedpoorpowerfulpreciousprickly proudputridpuzzledquaintrealrelievedrepulsiverichscarysellfishshinyshysillysleepysmilingsmoggysoresparklingsplendidspotlessstormystrangestupidsuccessfulsuper talentedtametastytendertenseterriblethankfulthoughtfulthoughtlessthirstydoubtfulugliestuglyuninterestedunsightlyunusualupsetuptightvastvictoriousvivaciouswanderingwearywickedwide-eyedwildwittyworriedworrisomewrongzanyzealous Common adjectives occur almost everywhere in the English language. They are essential in describing words and make any text more engaging, especially in describing an event or characters in a story. Their use is widespread, and it is crucial to know several of these words to communicate effectively. 1. What is a common adjective? A common adjective is merely a word used to describe a sentence's subject. Any word that describes a noun is a common adjective. 2. When is an adjective a proper adjective? An adjective becomes a proper adjective when used to describe a noun but is related to a proper noun. For e.g., the American soldier. The soldier is described as "American." Study the groups of words in italics in the following sentences:They started at [Started when?]They started when morning came. [Started when?]In sentence 1, the group of words in italics, at dawn, does the work of an Adverb. It tells us when the action was done. In sentence 2, the group of words in italics, when morning came, also, modifies the Verb started and so does the work of an Adverb.In sentence 1, the group of words at dawn is an Adverb Phrase. It tells us when the action was done. In sentence 2, the group of words in italics, when morning came, is not an Adverb Phrase. It has a Subject (morning) and a Predicate (came when). 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But since it has a Subject and a Predicate of its own, it is an Adjective Clause.Read the following Sentence:A man of courage is respected everywhere.A man who is courageous is respected everywhere.Here the Adjective Phrase of courage is equivalent in meaning to the Adjective Clause, who is courageous and can therefore be replaced by it.Exercise 3: In the following sentences replace the Adjective Phrases by suitable Adjective Clauses.We all admire a man of industrious habits.Please tell me the time of his departure.This accident took place on the road leading to the station.The houses of the Kashmiris are generally built of wood.That city on the hill has an old temple.A man of regular habits is sure to win the esteem of all.People occupying the last benches could not hear me.The boy sitting near you is my cousin.You can have anything of your liking.The time of his arrival will be notified later on.Exercise 4: In the following sentences replace the adjective clauses by adjective or adjective phrasesA man who has diligent habits is sure to succeed.We all admire a man who is courageous.Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.A man who talks too much is seldom listened to.People who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others.The day when he departed is still remembered.The day when he must part is drawing near.Can you tell me the way that leads to the Taj?The day on which he was crowned is still observed as a holiday.The boy who is industrious will win the prize.III. NOUN CLAUSESStudy the groups of words in italics in the following sentences:They expected to win the match. [Expected what?]They expected that they would win the match. [Expected what?]The first group of words, to win the match, is the Object of the Verb expected. It, therefore, does the work of a Noun, and since it has no Subject and no Predicate of its own, it is a Noun Phrase.The second group of words, that they would win the match it also the Object of the Verb expected and so does the work of a Noun. But as it has a Subject and a Predicate of its own, it is called a Noun Clause.Examine the following sentences:He hopes to win the first prize.He hopes that he will win the first prize.In these sentences, the Noun Phrase, to win the first prize, is equivalent in meaning to the Noun Clause, that he will win the first prize, and can therefore be replaced by it.Exercise 5: In the following sentences replace the Noun Phrases by suitable Noun Clauses.The time of his coming is known to me.I heard of her failure.The reason of his sudden disappearance is not known.I know your great fondness for music.We hoped for your success.The captain foretold the coming of a violent storm.Who can doubt the truth of his statement?I believe him to be an honourable man.He expects to win a prize.I know your great regard for her.Exercise 6: Substitute either a Noun or Noun Phrase for the Noun Clause in each of the following sentences:Nobody expected that he would die.The jury declared that he was guilty.He expects that he will win a prize.I believe that the man is trustworthy.I appreciate that you love your country.The doctor is hopeful that he will soon recover.His friends believed that he was innocent.That he should fail surprises me.I hope that I shall reach there in time.We expect that there are three kinds of Clauses :The Adverb Clause which does the work of anThe Adjective Clause which does the work of anThe Noun Clause which does the work of aExercise 7: Pick out the Clauses in the following sentences, and say what kind each is.The shepherd found the sheep which has been lost.We expect that he will succeed.I know the place where he was born.A boy who does not play at all is a dull boy.Tell me what you have done. .You may go home when you have finished.The boy, who had red hair,.greeted me with a smiling face.When the function was over, we returned home.When she was at school, she won many prizes.Where there's a will there's a way.Can't you tell me what she wants?I do not know where he was born.I have lost the pen which you gave me yesterday.We all admire a man who has courage.This is the place where he was killed.Nobody knows where he was killed.We know where we are from.They told him the reason why he failed in his trial.We told her the reason why she failed in her attempt.I know the woman who did this.Why she did such a foolish thing, I cannot understand.I know the place where the climate is good.She lives where the climate is goodDo you know where the climate is good?Exercise 8: In each of the following sentences replace the words in italics by Clauses.I know the place of her birth.We met a girl with blue eyes.A man of courage succeeds everywhere.He told us the time of her departure.Do you know the road leading to the Taj?The girl sitting near her is her daughter.She expected to win a prize.I cannot understand the reason for her failure.At sunset we returned home.The time of her arrival nobody can tell.I know your great love for her.We can tell the purpose of her coming here.The sun having risen, they resumed their journey.The King ordered the traitor to be hanged.I do not believe her statement. Welcome to GrammarBrain. Let's learn English and proper grammar together. Ready to have some fun? The latest from our experts. Is it sit in a chair or sit on a chair? Is it experience with or experience in? Thank you! Your submission has been received! Oops! Something went wrong while submitting the form. Browse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC Mastering Subordinate Clauses: A Guide to Identifying Noun, Adjective, and Adverbial Clauses.Understanding clauses is essential for mastering sentence structure. Let's break down the three types of subordinate clauses—Noun Clauses, Adjective Clauses, and Adverbial Clauses—and learn how to identify them.How to Identify Noun, Adjective, and Adverbial Clauses(With Noun Clauses as Appositions and Objects of Prepositions)A noun clause functions as a noun in a sentence. It can act as a subject, object, complement, noun in apposition, or object of a preposition.How to Identify a Noun Clause:It answers "What?" or "Who?"It often begins with that, what, whatever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, how, why, when, where, whether, if.It can be replaced with a single noun or pronoun and the sentence will still make sense.Functions of Noun Clauses in a SentenceAs Subject:What he said surprised everyone.As Object of a Verb:She believes that she will win the race.As Subject Complement (Predicate Nominative):The problem is how we can fix it.As Noun in Apposition:His belief, that hard work leads to success, motivated him.(Here, "that hard work leads to success" renames "his belief.")As Object of a Preposition:She is worried about what he might do next.(Here, "what he might do next" is the object of the preposition "about.")She believes that she will win the race.30 Sentences with Noun Clauses and Their Functions1. Noun Clauses as SubjectsWhat he said surprised everyone. (Subject)That she won the competition made her parents proud. (Subject)Whether we will go on the trip depends on the weather. (Subject)Who will take responsibility for this mistake is still unclear. (Subject)2. Noun Clauses as Objects of VerbsShe believes that she will win the race. (Object of verb "believes")I don't know where she lives. (Object of verb "know")The teacher explained how the water cycle works. (Object of verb "explained")They decided that the project should be postponed. (Object of verb "decided")He admitted that he had made a mistake. (Object of verb "admitted")3. Noun Clauses as Subject Complements(Subject complement)My biggest worry is whether I will pass the exam. (Subject complement)His goal was that he would finish the project before the deadline. (Subject complement)The fact remains that they were invited. (Subject complement)4. Noun Clauses as Objects of PrepositionsShe is worried about what he might do next. (Object of preposition "about")He talked about where we should go for the holidays. (Object of preposition "about")There was confusion over who would be the next team leader. (Object of preposition "over")He has no idea about how they managed to escape. (Object of preposition "about")The argument was about whether they should continue the project. (Object of preposition "about")5. Noun Clauses as AppositionsA noun clause in apposition renames or explains a noun that comes before it. It usually follows a noun and is set off by commas if it provides additional information.His belief, that honesty is the best policy, guided all his actions.The fact, that she won the scholarship, made her family proud.My biggest fear, that I would fail the exam, kept me awake all night.Her statement, that she saw a ghost in the old house, shocked everyone.The teacher's advice, that we should read more books, was helpful.Their assumption, that the meeting was canceled, turned out to be wrong.The idea, that we could finish the project in one day, was unrealistic.His excuse, that he had forgotten about the deadline, didn't convince the manager.The hope, that they would win the championship, motivated the players.Her concern, that the weather would ruin the picnic, was unnecessary.Her concern, that the weather would ruin the picnic, was unnecessary.1-20: Noun Clause Identification ExamplesI wonder what she meant by that. (Object of verb)Why he refused to help remains a mystery. (Subject)The teacher emphasized that practice makes perfect. (Object of verb)We are not sure where he went after school. (Object of verb)The fact, that she graduated with honors, made her parents proud. (Apposition)They are discussing whether they should expand the business. (Object of verb)His excuse, that he had lost his keys, didn't convince the teacher. (Apposition)I don't know how they managed to solve the problem. (Object of verb)His concern, that the weather might ruin the trip, was unnecessary. (Apposition)I have no idea who left the door open. (Object of verb)We were unaware of what had happened during the meeting. (Object of preposition)The decision, that they would postpone the event, was unexpected. (Apposition)The real question is whether they will cooperate. (Subject complement)It is unclear why the experiment failed. (Subject)The doctor explained how the new treatment works. (Object of verb)They were confused by what she said in her speech. (Object of preposition)Where he went after the party is unknown. (Subject)Her argument, that the policy should be changed, was logical. (Apposition)The success of the project depends on how well the team works together. (Object of preposition)Nobody knows when they will announce the results. (Object of verb)Lost in thought, he considers his next move, unaware of her growing concern.2. Adjective Clauses (Relative Clauses)An adjective clause (or relative clause) modifies a noun or pronoun in a sentence.How to Identify an Adjective Clause:It describes a noun (acts like an adjective).It starts with a relative pronoun (who, whom, whose, which, that) or a relative adverb (where, when, why).It is placed right after the noun it describes.The boy who won the race is my cousin.She lives in a house that has a big garden.This is the book which I borrowed from the library.Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Clauses: Explanation and ExamplesA restrictive clause and a non-restrictive clause are both types of adjective (relative) clauses, but they function differently in a sentence. Understanding these distinctions is important for proper punctuation and clarity.1. What is a Restrictive Clause?A restrictive clause (also called a defining clause) provides essential information about a noun. Without it, the meaning of the sentence would be incomplete or unclear. Key Features:It is necessary to identify the noun.It begins with a relative pronoun (that, which, who, whom, whose, where, when).It does not use commas.Restrictive clauses are strict, formal, and precise—perfect for legal documents, academic writing, and exams. Example: The student who passed the exam with flying colors is now a teacher.(This tells which student performed the action.)The book that I borrowed from the library is due next week.(This specifies which book.)The city where I grew up has changed a lot.(This tells which city.)The reason why she left early is that she could catch the train.I spoke slowly in order that everyone could understand me.6. Adverbial Clauses of Concession (Contrast) (Show unexpected results or contrast.) Subordinating Conjunctions: although, even though, while, whereas, thoughAlthough he was tired, he continued working.Even though it was expensive, she bought the dress.He is rich, whereas his brother struggles financially.7. Adverbial Clauses of Comparison (Compare two things.) Subordinating Conjunctions: than, as...asShe is taller than her brother is.He drives as carefully as his father does.8. Adverbial Clauses of Result (Effect) (Tell the result of an action.) Subordinating Conjunctions: so...that, such...thatThe weather was so cold that we stayed inside.He had such a great time that he didn't want to leave.9. Adverbial Clauses of Manner (Tell how something happens.) Subordinating Conjunctions: as, as if, as thoughShe speaks as if she knows everything.He acted as though he had seen a ghost.10. Adverbial Clauses of Extent or Degree (Tell to what extent something happens.) Subordinating Conjunctions: so...that, such...thatShe was so tired that she fell asleep immediately.He is such a good teacher that his students love him.He is such a good teacher that his students love him.Exercise: Fill in the Blanks with an Appropriate Adverbial ClausePart 1: Identify the Type of Adverbial ClauseDetermine the type of adverbial clause in the following sentences:She couldn't attend the party because she was sick.We waited until the show started.If you need help, just call me.He spoke as if he were an expert.She arrived early so that she could get a good seat.We sat where we could see the stage clearly.Although he studied hard, he didn't pass the exam.He worked harder than I expected.It was so cold that we couldn't go outside.You can stay here as long as you follow the rules.Part 2: Complete the Sentences with an Adverbial ClauseI will call you when _____.She exercises every day because _____.He drives as though _____.We will go on a picnic unless _____.The child ran so fast that _____.You can go wherever _____.He works hard so that _____.They left early in order that _____.Although _____, she remained calm.He looks as if _____.She ran quickly until she reached the bus stop. (Time)I. Noun Clauses - Identify the Noun Clause and its FunctionI don't know why she left early. (Object of verb)The teacher explained how the water cycle works. (Object of verb)The decision depends on what he chooses. (Object of preposition)They are unsure whether they should accept the offer. (Object of verb)His hope, that he would win the race, kept him motivated. (Apposition)II. Adjective Clauses - Fill in the blanks using an adjective clauseThe book _____ is my favourite.The girl _____ is my best friend.I visited the museum _____.The restaurant _____ serves amazing food.The teacher _____ gave us extra homework.III. Adverbial Clauses - Complete the sentences with an adverbial clauseI couldn't go to the party because _____.She practiced every day so that _____.He will call me when _____.The students stayed quiet until _____.If you work hard, _____.I. Noun Clauses - Identify the Noun Clause in each sentenceI don't know why she left early.The teacher explained how the water cycle works.The decision depends on what he chooses.They are unsure whether they should accept the offer.That she was late surprised everyone.II. Adjective Clauses - Fill in the blanks using an adjective clauseThe book _____ is my favourite.The girl _____ is my best friend.I visited the museum _____.The restaurant _____ serves amazing food.The teacher _____ gave us extra homework.III. Adverbial Clauses - Complete the sentences with an adverbial clauseI couldn't go to the party because _____.She practiced every day so that _____.He will call me when _____.The students stayed quiet until _____.If you work hard, _____. The book that I borrowed from the library is my favourite.Identifying the Type of Clause Determine whether the bolded clause in each sentence is a Noun Clause, Adjective Clause, or Adverbial Clause.1. I don't know why she left early.2. The teacher explained how the water cycle works.3. The decision depends on what he chooses.4. They are unsure whether they should accept the offer.5. That she was late surprised everyone.6. The book that I borrowed from the library is my favourite.7. The girl who sits next to me is my best friend.8. I visited the museum where ancient artifacts are displayed.9. The restaurant which serves Italian food is amazing.10. The teacher who teaches us English gave us extra homework.11. I couldn't go to the party because I was feeling sick.12. She practiced every day so that she could improve her performance.13. He will call me when he reaches home.14. The students stayed quiet until the teacher arrived.15. If you work hard, you will achieve success.Mastering Determiners in English Grammar: A Comprehensive Guide Adjectives describe and modify nouns and pronouns. The words smart, funny, happy, and outrageous are all examples of adjectives. Sometimes, however, these adjectives on their own are not enough. You might want to say that a joke is not only funny, but also so funny that no other joke can live up to it. Or you might need to say a shoe smells so bad that its stench dominates every other stinky smell.