

## Independent Clauses

The independent clause expresses a complete thought and functions as a sentence.

**Independent clause = sentence**

*subject + verb + optional complements & modifiers*

## Dependent Clauses

The dependent clause functions as a part of speech within the sentence. There are three types of dependent clauses.

**Subordinate clause = adverb**

*subordinate conjunction + subject + verb + optional complements & modifiers*

**Relative clause = adjective**

*relative pronoun + subject + verb + optional complements & modifiers*

**Noun clause = noun**

*relative pronoun + subject + verb + optional complements & modifiers*

## Subordinate Clauses

When writing and identifying subordinate clauses, it is **helpful to memorize the list of common subordinate conjunctions** (words that begin subordinate clauses). Keep the following points in mind when using the list.

- \* *This is not a complete list; it is only the most common subordinate conjunctions.*
- \* *Subordinate conjunctions can be made up of more than one word like "as soon as."*
- \* *The words on this list are only subordinate conjunctions when they are part of a subordinate clause. Some of them can also function as prepositions.*
  - ⇒ *BEFORE as a subordinate conjunction: Jack climbed the hill before Jill did.*
  - ⇒ *BEFORE as a preposition: Jack climbed the hill before dinner.*

after	as soon as	if	so that	when
although	as though	In order that	than	whenever
as	because	now that	though	where
as if	before	once	unless	wherever
as long as	even if	provided (that)	until	while
as much as	even though	since	no matter how	

**ADVERBS**  
HOW?  
WHEN?  
WHERE?  
WHY?  
MANNER?

before <sup>S</sup> Jill <sup>V</sup> did

while she finishes the Sunday crossword puzzle at breakfast

even if <sup>S</sup> the medical research <sup>V</sup> is completed on time and under budget

## Relative Clauses

When writing and identifying relative clauses, it is **helpful to memorize the list of relative pronouns** (words that begin relative and noun clauses). Keep the following points in mind when using the list.

- \* *This is not a complete list; it is only the most common relative pronouns.*
- \* *The words on this list are only relative pronouns when they begin a relative clause. Some of them can also function as pronouns and demonstrative pronouns.*
  - ⇒ *THAT as a relative pronoun: Jack climbed the same hill that Jill did.*
  - ⇒ *THAT as a pronoun: That is the hill.*
  - ⇒ *THAT as a demonstrative pronoun: Jack climbed that hill.*

Relative Pronouns		Additional Words That Begin Relative and Noun Clauses		
who	what	where	wherever	why
whom	which	when	whenever	whether
whose	whomever	how	however	
that	whatever	<i>These words can also begin adverb clauses. They work as relative pronouns when they begin adjective or noun dependent clauses.</i>		
whoever	whichever			

**ADJECTIVES**  
HOW MANY?  
WHAT KIND?  
WHOSE?  
WHICH?

a movie <sup>S</sup> that <sup>V</sup> has a happy ending  
 the jogger <sup>S</sup> whose <sup>V</sup> phone fell in the pond  
 reasons <sup>S</sup> why <sup>V</sup> the coach replaced the quarterback at halftime

## Noun Clauses

When writing and identifying noun clauses, it is **helpful to memorize the list of relative pronouns** (see above).

**NOUNS**  
Subject of sentence  
Complement of verb  
Object of preposition

<sup>S</sup> Whoever <sup>V</sup> uses the most chocolate *will win the baking competition.*  
 We don't know <sup>S</sup> how <sup>V</sup> the dog got in the car.  
 The boys are sorry for <sup>S</sup> what <sup>V</sup> they did.