

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

DEFINITION: A clause is defined as a grammatical unit or branch of a sentence in a sentence building. It is a group of words that contain a finite verb.

Example: The man is a very good carpenter, he works assiduously and he beats everybody.

In the above example, it can be deduced that three clauses make up the sentence. Each clause, stands and represents a simple sentence if a capital letter and full stop are added.

TYPES OF CLAUSES

There are two types of clause, namely: MAIN and SUBORDINATE.

A) The Main Clause: it is also called the INDEPENDENT / PRINCIPAL Clause. This is because it can stand on its own and it makes a complete sense or sentence.

Examples: (a) I am going home now. (b) The choir came and ministered.

B) Subordinate Clause: it is a group of words. it does not express a complete thought; it depends on the main clause to make a complete sentence. Also, it forms part of the sentence.

Examples: (a) **As soon as the boy saw the teacher** , he took to his heels. (b) **Unless he passes the examination**, he will not travel abroad.

TYPES OF SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:

There are three types of Subordinate Clause, namely: **Noun, Adverbial and Adjectival Clauses.**

(a) Noun Clause & Functions: A clause performs the same grammatical functions as nouns and Noun phrases. These functions are:

1. Subject of the Verb: (i) How Sola passed the exam beats the imagination of the teachers.

Function: subject of the verb, beats.

ii) Why he has refused to put in his letter of resignation, is best known to him.

Function: subject of the verb, **known.**

2) Subject Complement: Examples:

(i)The good news is that he passed his ICAN

Examinations. (good news as the complement)

3) Object of the Verb: Examples:

(i) The authority awarded what is termed as punctuality award.

Function: Object of the Verb, **awarded.**

ii) The suspect eventually accepted that he was guilty.

Function: The object of the Verb, **accepted.**

4) Object Complement: Examples:

(i) **The authority gave** the student **what** is termed award for excellence.

Function: complement of the object **student**

(ii) The robbers killed the man because he did not give them **what they demanded for**.

Function: complement of the object **them**.

(iii) We narrated to our colleagues **how we survived the ordeal**.

Function: **Our Colleagues** is the object of the verb **narrated** and the italicized noun clause- **how we survived the ordeal** complement the object **our colleagues**.

5. Complement of preposition.

Examples:

(i) His action resulted into **what his father predicted**.

Function: object of the preposition **into**.

(ii) The money was retrieved from **the man who stole it**.

Function: object of the preposition **from**.

6. In Apposition to a noun

A noun clause is in Apposition to a noun when the noun clauses and the noun refer to the same thing.

Example:

The news, **that I was missing**, spread across the village.

The noun clause **that I was missing** is in Apposition to the noun **news**.

(b) Relative clause and functions

Most relative clauses are introduced by relative pronouns like 'who', 'which', 'whose', 'that', 'when', 'where', 'whom', etc.

The function of a relative clause is the same as that of an adjectival phrase: that is, qualifying the noun or pronoun that precedes it in a sentence.

Examples:

(i) I released the project to somebody **who appears to be reasonable** in the class.

Function: qualifies the pronoun **somebody**.

(ii) **The landlord whose house was burgled** has reported to the police.

Function: qualifies the noun **landlord**.

(iii) The dress **which my husband bought for me** suit my shape.

Function: qualifies the noun **dress**.

(iv) The government has equipped the hospital **where the renowned doctor works**.

Function: qualifies the noun **hospital**

- (v) The teacher gave a special time **when he would meet with the students.**

Function: qualifies the noun **time.**

However, some relative clauses are used without being introduced by the usual relative pronouns.

Examples:

- (i) The surgery **performed by the doctor** was successful.

Function: qualifies the noun **surgery**

- (ii) The Ekiti state government has awarded a contract for the renovation and upgrading of the NYSC orientation camp **located in Ise-Emure.**

Function: qualifies the noun **camp** or **NYSC orientation camp.**

- (iii) In the press statement **issued by the striking workers yesterday,** there seemed to be no hope of resolution in sight.

Function: qualifies the noun **statement**

- (iv) The book **I bought for my son's birthday** is one of the essential series.

Function: qualifies the noun **book**

- (v) The woman **shocked to the marrow with fear** shouted for help.

Function: qualifies the noun **woman**

(c) Adverbial clause and functions

Like the adverbial phrase, adverbial clause performs the grammatical function of modifying the verb in the main clause.

Consider the following:

As soon as the student saw the principal he took to his heels.

Function: it is modifying the verb **took** in the main clause- **he took to his heels.**

Adverbial clauses are indicators of:

- a. **Time** (when, after, as soon as, before, whenever, while, since, etc.)
- b. **Place** (where, wherever, etc.)
- c. **Condition**(unless, if, until, provided)
- d. **Manner** (as, if, as, etc.)
- e. **Reason** and **purpose** (because, in order that, so as, so that, etc.)
- f. **Concession** (though, yet, although, etc.)
- g. **Result** (that)

Note: in an examination situation, candidates are not required to give the name of a particular adverbial clause.

For instance, an adverbial clause introduced by, 'as soon as', 'before', 'when', or 'whenever' is an adverbial clause of time. However, it is enough for candidates to just identify such a clause as an adverbial clause only.

Functions of adverbial clause

Examples:

- I. The manager had left for the meeting **before I got to his office.**
Function: modifies the verb **had left**
- II. **Although he was told the implication of examination malpractices,** he brought prepared answers into the hall
Function: modifies the verb **brought**
- III. Akin failed his final examination **because he did not study hard**
Function: modifies the verb **failed**
- IV. **Unless you buy me a bottle of coke,** I will not accompany you to the market.
Function: modifies the verb **will not accompany.**
- V. I was so tired **that I could not eat after cooking.**
Function: modifies the verb **was tired**
- VI. The old man remembers his childhood **whenever he sees his grandchildren.**
Function: modifies the verb **remembers.**
- VII. I saw him **when he was going to church.**
Function: modifies the verb **saw**