

Clauses and Sentences

A clause is a group of words that forms part of a sentence and contains both a subject and a finite verb. The number of finite verbs in a sentence, which are connected by conjunctions, determines the number of clauses within that sentence.

Kinds of Sentences

Sentences can be classified into three types:

1. Simple Sentence
2. Complex Sentence
3. Compound Sentence

Simple Sentence

A simple sentence contains only one finite verb, though it may include non-finite verbs. Examples include:

- "She is walking."
- "He has written a letter to help his son."

Complex Sentence

A complex sentence consists of a main (principal) clause and one or more subordinate clauses. This means it has more than one finite verb, and the subordinate clauses are joined by subordinating conjunctions. Examples include:

- "I know that he is a good man."
- "I know the man who was here last month."
- "When you do this work, I shall help you with money."

Compound Sentence

A compound sentence is made up of two or more principal clauses. These clauses are joined by coordinating conjunctions such as "and," "but," "so," "therefore," "otherwise," "or," "else," "nor," "while," "for," "whereas," "still," "yet," "nevertheless," "however," "as well as," "all the same," "indeed," and "but."

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Examples include:

- "My brother came and he handed over money to me."
- "She is rich but she is not vain."
- "Speak or you will die."
- "She is ill so she will not come."
- "She is intelligent while her sister is dull."
- "It was dark, however, we went out."
- "He was convicted as well as fined."
- "I was feeling tired all the same I went to the office."
- "It is cold indeed, but I will go out."

More About Complex Sentences

As previously mentioned, a complex sentence consists of a principal clause and one or more subordinate clauses. Subordinate clauses can be of three types: noun clauses, adjective clauses, and adverb clauses.

Examples include:

- "I know that he is a good boy." (Noun Clause)
- "I know the man who was here yesterday." (Adjective Clause)
- "When you do this work, I shall give you money." (Adverb Clause)



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Noun Clause

In the sentence "I know that he is a good boy":

- The principal clause is "I know."
- The noun clause is "that he is a good boy," which explains the verb, noun, or pronoun of the main clause.

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Rules for Noun Clauses:

- Use conjunctions such as "that," "if," "whether," "when," "where," "how," "why," "what," "who," "whose," "whom," and "which."
- If the verb of the main clause is in the past tense, the verb of the noun clause should also be in the past tense, except for universal truths.
- A noun clause should not be in an interrogative form.

Adjective Clause

In the sentence "I know the man who was here yesterday":

- The principal clause is "I know the man."
- The adjective clause is "who was here yesterday," which qualifies a noun or pronoun in the main clause.

Adverb Clause

In the sentence "I shall give you money when you do this work":

- The principal clause is "I shall give you money."
- The adverb clause is "when you do this work," which modifies a verb, adverb, or adjective in the main clause.

