

A closer look at long sentences- 1

English language has three clauses: Adjective, Noun and Adverb Clauses, and these clauses have different types and functions. If you can detect them when reading long sentences, you can divide the sentences into chunks easier and this may help you understand the sentences better. What is more, identifying these clauses may help you write structurally more accurate sentences and express yourself better.

For better understanding of these worksheets, note the following:

- SVO = subject + verb + other elements
- Phrase = a group of words.
 - a. Verb Phrase – study biology
 - b. Adjective Phrase – very excited
 - c. Noun Phrase – the massive ship
 - d. Adverb Phrase – too slowly
 - e. Prepositional Phrase – during dinner
- Clause = a clause can be constructed with “that, which, after, since, so that, etc.” OR verb forms “Ving, V3, toV”. For example:

... **who** studies in the US.

... **that** she will see London at last.

... **when** the parcel was delivered to the wrong address.

☞ The verbs in these clauses have a tense; therefore, these clauses are called “finite”.

... the student **studying** in the US.

... **to see** London at last.

... **delivered** to the wrong address.

☞ The verbs in these clauses don't have a tense; therefore, these clauses are called “non-finite”.

Types of Clauses:

A. Adjective Clause

Celebrations such as weddings are often times **when families gather together**.

The girl **eating ice-cream** is my daughter. (non-finite)

B. Noun Clause

When families gather together is what sociology is interested in.

Eating / To eat ice-cream on a hot day is delightful. (non-finite)

C. Adverb Clause

When families gather together, there is either a wedding or a funeral.

Eating ice-cream, she nearly got chocked. (non-finite)

Let's look into the following sentences:

1. Nearly all the magazines have **such charming people on their covers that our subconscious makes us look at them** even if we do not intend to buy those magazines and makes us idealize the beauty of these people.

such adjective+noun **that** SVO

This structure is all about an adverb clause which gives us a result, and therefore a cause.

In this sentence,

The RESULT = *we look at the magazine covers and idealize the beauty of these people.*

The CAUSE = *magazine covers have very charming people.*

“even if we do not intend to buy those magazines”

This is an adverb clause with the adverb clause linker “even if”. This linker is very close in meaning to “although” and it says “we don’t want to buy those magazines BUT we still look at them.”

2. *People* writer Michelle Green (2004), **who investigated the impact of these beautiful 2-D images on the young generation**, reported on the role of celebrities in the young’s pursuit of beauty.

who/that/which (S)VO

The part in bold is the adjective clause. Yes, we all know about it: an adjective clause gives us information about a noun (phrase). If you can identify where an adjective clause starts and finishes, you can easily find the verb (or verb phrase) of the sentence. In the example above, the verb is “*reported*” and the chunk before it (the whole underlined part) is the subject of the sentence.


Note: Remember that if the adjective clause starts with a subject (unlike the one above) you can omit “who/that/which”. For example:

What does Samsung do with all the old smart phones (that) they buy from people through the exchange offers?

3. Of the youngsters **Green interviewed**①, there were those **who had undergone a couple of surgeries to give their buttocks the J. Lo look**②, or devotees of Keanu Reeves **who had paid thousands of dollars for rhinoplasties and an implant to fill out their chins**③.

“Of the youngsters (whom/that) Green interviewed①”

Seeing “of” at the beginning of the sentence may look tricky but it is simple. This chunk includes an adjective clause without the adjective pronoun and it tells us that Green interviewed some youngsters; and the rest of the sentence tells us that AMONG these youngsters, some wished to look like J. Lo, and some others were fans of K. Reeves.

 Imagine you have had five holidays with your friends so far and you have liked the holiday in Olympus the best. You can make such a sentence:

“Of all the holidays (that) I have had with my friends, the best one was the one in Olympus.”

Other adjective clauses in the sentence:

② “who had undergone a couple of surgeries to give their buttocks the J. Lo look”. This is another adjective clause giving us information about youngsters that were interviewed by Green because “those” refers to them.

③ “who had paid thousands of dollars for rhinoplasties and an implant to fill out their chins.” And this is the third adjective clause modifying the devotees of K. Reeves.

4. After the turbulent 1960s and 1970s, in which young people all over the world challenged traditional ideals, values and norms, people saw the same problems again: wars, inequality, racism, political corruption, and ideological divergence.

in which = when

If you know that the adjective pronoun “when” can mean “in which”, “on which”, “during which”, “at which”, etc., then you can easily understand that in this sentence the part in bold is an adjective clause which gives us information about 1960s and 1970s.

Note: Can you also see that the underlined part is functioning as a time phrase like “yesterday” or “three years later”? If you can see that, you can also see this whole chunk can also go to the end of the sentence. However, the writer chose to put it at the beginning, probably for emphasis.

The subject of this sentence is “*people*” and the verb is “*saw*”.

5. One of the most pronounced tendencies **to emerge from this climate** is the therapeutic outlook, in which, individuals endlessly examine themselves for signs of aging and flaws that might diminish their attractiveness and then rely on plastic surgery to remove **what makes them uncomfortable**.

This one seems to be the trickiest one. Let's look into it step by step:

- a. "to emerge from this climate". This is a shorter, thus advanced version of an adjective clause. Adjective Clauses with modal verbs may be shortened by eliminating the modal verb and writing the verb of the clause in "toV" form.

Example:

the forms *that need to be filled* ⇒ the forms *to be filled*

the doctor who will operate ⇒ the doctor *to operate*

Therefore,

to emerge from this climate = that may/can/will emerge from this climate

- b. "that might diminish their attractiveness". What is expected to diminish the attractiveness of people? *Signs of aging and flaws*. Therefore, this adjective clause modifies "*signs of aging and flaws*".
- c. "what makes them uncomfortable": This is a noun clause. What do people want to remove through plastic surgery? They want to remove the things that make them uncomfortable.

Example:

I want to remove the table.

Noun

I want to remove what makes me uncomfortable.

Noun Clause

- d. The underlined part in the sentence is a big adjective clause that tells us about the therapeutic outlook. Here, "in which" = "where".

Note: The adjective pronoun "where" is not used only after place names (e.g.: school, Ankara, their house, etc.). You can also use it when modifying nouns like: "position", "level", "stage", "circumstances", etc.

Example: *The Earth may eventually reach a stage where humanity will end itself.*

