

A closer look at long sentences

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. Today, it is very common to find people ①renaming themselves with pseudonyms such as "DarkAngel", "Unicorn" and "Eowyn", ②creating colourful avatars and ③spending countless hours chatting with people they have never seen, **nor likely will see**.

a. In this sentence, "people" is modified with 3 non-finite Adjective Clauses.

	who rename themselves ...	=	renaming themselves
People	who create colourful avatars	=	creating colourful avatars
	who spend countless hours ...	=	spending countless hours ...

Note: Finite Adjective Clauses without a subject* can be made non-finite (reduced)** as shown:

* For example, there is no subject after "who" here: "who rename themselves"

** See page 1 for the explanation of "non-finite".

the teacher who reviewed our test	Active	the teacher reviewing our test
a study that was carried out by METU	Passive	a study carried out by METU
hormones that can increase alertness	Modal (active)	hormones to increase alertness
the forms which must be filled in ink	Modal (passive)	the forms to be filled in ink

b. "people [who/that] they have never seen, **nor likely will see**"

"**nor**" functions like "and" in the above chunk. Remember: "**nor**" is used with a positive auxiliary verb after a negative statement when adding another negative statement.

Examples:

Asking him politely doesn't work, *nor do threats*.

The pool area has not changed, *nor has the beach*.

✎ See how the sentence is constructed above: after "nor", you construct the sentence like a *question*.

2. During that time, Julie posted messages that disclosed increasingly intimate details of her life, **including the fact that she was a mute, paraplegic victim of a car crash who had wrestled with suicidal depression**.

a. ", including ..."

Can you see that the chunk in italics is an Adjective Clause? It describes the noun phrase "intimate details of her life".

✎ ", including" is the *non-finite* version of "which include ..."

... intimate details of her life, **which include** the fact that she was a mute, paraplegic victim of a car crash who had wrestled with suicidal depression.

b. The underlined part is a Noun Clause, not an adjective clause, because it is NOT describing "the fact". It tells us *what* the fact is.

3. The participants in the CampuServe discussion group were **so** moved by this unfortunate situation **that** after a number of months of interacting with her online, one well-intentioned woman set out to find Julie and offer her face-to-face comfort and support.

SO adjective that SVO

This structure is all about an Adverb Clause which gives us a result, and therefore a cause. * *

In this sentence,

CAUSE = were **so** moved by this unfortunate situation

RESULT = **that** after a number of months of interacting with her online*, one well-intentioned woman

set out to find Julie and offer her face-to-face comfort and support

v

o

s

- * this part is the time phrase and it can go to the end of the adverb clause as well.
 ** We studied this in Unit 1 – Text 1. See worksheet 1 to distinguish between *such* adjective that SVO and *so* adjective that SVO.

4. When the woman reported her discovery to the rest of the bulletin board's participants, outraged contributors condemned the experiment, **remarking** that in impersonating one of them, the psychologist had violated their privacy.

a. "When the woman reported her discovery to the rest of the bulletin board's participants"

This is an Adverb Clause of TIME. It tells what the time of the action in the main clause is.

b. The underlined part can be written as follows:

... outraged contributors condemned the experiment **and remarked** that in impersonating one of them, the psychologist had violated their privacy.

Note: Those sentences which are linked with "and" have the same subject have simultaneous actions can be reduced as in the sentence above.

(To identify such constructions is not easy; thus, you might need to check the meaning again and again to see whether this is a reduced *adjective* or *adverb* clause, or a sentence linked with "and" but reduced).

Examples:

Rita walks in Central Park, **and** listens to R&B every morning.

Rita walks in Central Park, **listening to R&B every morning.**
Listening to R&B every morning, Rita walks in Central Park.
 Rita, **listening to R&B every morning,** walks in Central Park.

Rita listens to R&B every morning, **walking in Central Park.**
Walking in Central Park, Rita listens to R&B every morning.
 Rita, **walking in Central Park,** listens to R&B every morning.

