

## 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. **Walking into the room**, I find her and her favourite toy Bloom of the Winx dolls, who has recently been one of our family members as Tessa is among the followers of this new craze.

a. "Walking into the room, ..."

This chunk is a non-finite (reduced) Adverb Clause of **Time**. When the **subjects** of the main and adverb clauses are the same, you can reduce the adverb clause and this is what is happening here.

When **I** walk into the room, **I** find her ... = Walking into the room, I find her ...

Remember ?

An Adverb Clause can be made non-finite in two ways:

- With the linker After attaching to the skin, a leech can be removed by the application of either salt or heat.
- Without the linker Attaching to the skin, a leech can be removed by the application of either salt or heat.

□ ACTIVE VERB turns into *Ving* or *having V3*.

eg. *Attaching* to the skin,... (the verb *attach* is active)

PASSIVE VERB turns into *V3* or *being V3*.

eg. *Attached* to the skin, ... (the verb *attach* is passive)

More examples:

- The policeman fell off his motorbike *as if shot*. (linker + V3)
- A 3-year-old girl was hospitalized *after being bitten by a snake* - possibly a juvenile python - *while walking with her parents at San Dimas Park*. (linker + beingV3 & linker Ving)
- *Although having recovered from his illness*, Mike soon developed another condition which was the immediate cause of his death. (linker + having V3)
- Please call before ordering online to check stock availability *unless ordering 4 working days before delivery*. (linker + Ving)
- *Being only 16*, Melanie cannot vote. (Ving) (No linker)
- Justine and Matt felt a more intense bond and better understanding, *having talked for hours about their hopes and dreams*. (having V3) (No linker)
- *Having been injected*, the rat started to move again. (having been V3) (No linker)
- *Painted dark*, the room looks smaller. (V3) (No linker)

b. "... as Tessa is among the followers of this new craze"

This is an Adverb Clause of **Reason**. It gives us the reason why the Winx doll is one of the family members.

## AS

This simple word, in fact, has 3 different functions:

- Conjunction In Adverb Clauses to express TIME, REASON and CONCESSION.
- Preposition Nathan works as an industrial engineer.
- Adverb We all need regular exercise, but a healthy diet is just as important.

### AS as a CONJUNCTION (Adverb Clause)

**TIME** As the suspect was approaching them, he was dragging his rifle behind him and brought it up and shot Deputy Maxwell in the head.

**REASON** She chose to study psychology as she felt that her own personal experiences would be beneficial in helping her to understand others.

**CONCESSION** Strange as it may seem, I never really wanted to be rich.  
Much as I sympathize with your difficulties, there is little I can do to help you.

- As a teacher and researcher who has explored youth violence and worked with digital technologies for over a decade, **I cannot help but wonder where our continually expanding use of technologies will take us.**

I cannot help but wonder where our continually expanding use of technologies will take us.

S V O (Noun Clause)

As shown above, there is a noun clause after the main verb. Remember in the previous lessons, the rules for using a "that" or "wh- question word / whether / if" with Noun Clauses.

#### □ Reminder!

A noun clause will tell us things about the verb:

Say *what?*

Wonder *what?*

Explain *what?* etc.

Here, because we have the verb "wonder" which means "to think about something because you want to know more facts or details about it", a Noun Clause after it should have a "wh-question word or whether/if":

...wonder where *our continually expanding use of technologies will take us.*

What does the subject of this sentence (I) wonder?

"where our continually expanding use of technologies will take us"

But if we have a statement verb like “say, suggest, announce, etc.” as the main verb, then the noun clause starts with “that”.

eg. He says that...

? What is the function of the “As” in Sentence 2? Is it a Preposition, Adverb or Conjunction?

3. At the same time, studies of teenagers’ values and beliefs have shown that over the past fifteen years there has been a significant decline in the percentage of young people who are willing to endorse key values such as honesty, politeness, generosity, and concern for others as being very important.

a. ... that over the past fifteen years there has been a significant decline in the percentage of young people

This is a Noun Clause telling us what the studies of teenagers’ values and beliefs have shown.

b. ... who are willing to endorse key values such as honesty, politeness, generosity, and concern for others as being very important.

This is an Adjective Clause describing/modifying “young people”.

4. *Since many people now wear conspicuous brand labels (walking billboards who pay for the privilege), and since product placement and internet ads are becoming ubiquitous\*, **the total number of ads a typical child is exposed to** would be almost impossible to calculate and may be in the millions per year.*

The difficult thing in this sentence is dividing the Main Clause into SVO. Can you do it?

**SUBJECT** = the total number of ads a typical child is exposed to

**VERB** = *would be almost impossible to calculate and may be in the millions per year*

**SUBJECT** = the total number of ads a typical child is exposed to

In this chunk, we see an adjective clause without a “who, which/that”. In fact, “a typical child is exposed to” describes/modifies “the total number of ads”. In other words, we can write the same chunk as such:

the total number of ads **that** a typical child is exposed to

**VERB** = *would be almost impossible to calculate and may be in the millions per year*

The main sentence, has TWO “BE”s and these make up the Verb Phrase of the Main Clause.

1. *Be impossible*

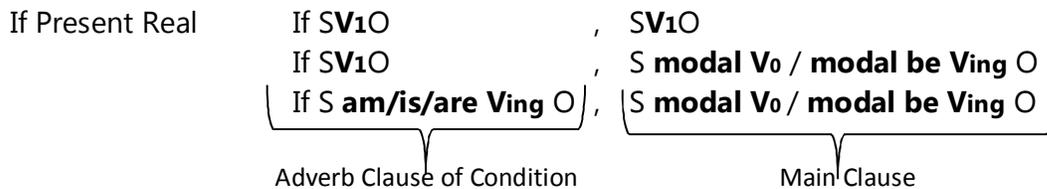
2. *Be in million years per year*

\*As you may have already noticed the part in italics is an Adverb Clause of Reason because, meaning-wise, there is a reason-result relationship between the main clause and the adverb clause and there is the linker “since” which gives the meanings of Time and Reason.

5. If one of the common results of increased materialism is increased dissatisfaction, generally this is bound to make some children more critical of parents and authority.

**“IF”** is an Adverb Clause linker of **CONDITION**, and it is a rather frequently used linker especially in Science; and therefore, it is only natural to come across “if” in academic language.

In this sense, “if” is used mainly in **Present Real** situations. Thus, you can see the following structures often.



Note: Other “If Clauses” require a lot of reading and understanding to be able to construct accurate and meaningful sentences.

Examples for Present Real “IF”:

- *If stars could have themselves surgically changed to look beautiful, so could fans.*
- We are now becoming close to biological computers that command a cell to self-destruct *if cancer is detected.*
- *If enhancements are banned within a given country, people will simply leave the country to become enhanced.*
- *If one of the parents has a hereditary disease, the genes for this illness will be removed from the embryo.*
- *If your body loses too much water, especially if you sweat a lot when you exercise, you can get dehydrated.*
- Dieting, which has been a common method to be physically pleasing, may have drawbacks *if not applied carefully.*
- TV industry can survive only *if advertisers find new advertising methods to increase profits.*