

## 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. According to a recent Reuters report, there are many parents who are supporting their adult kids in lots of ways, **with moms being the go-to person 60 percent of the time** when offspring run into economic problems.

We see prepositions in many positions in the sentence and in various meanings or functions. Here, for example, the preposition "with" can be explained with the 12th entry in Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2011):

used to say what position or state someone or something is in, or what is happening, when someone does something

Examples: We lay in bed with the window open.  
She was knitting, with the television on.

**with somebody/something doing something**

We jumped into the water with bullets whizzing past our ears.

In the sentence above, therefore, the writer means:

Many parents support their adult kids AND that means 60% of the time moms are the people that kids go to.

2. Although parents are not legally obliged to support children over the age of 18, and although 86 percent of the moms in the survey were financially independent by the time they were 25 years old, **it is clear that many parents today will do what they can to help their adult children.**
  - a. The chunk in bold in the above sentence, is a Noun Clause which is telling us What is clear:  
What is clear? = "many parents today will do what they can to help their adult children"

Note: In this type of sentences you can see the following structures:

It be <u>Adjective</u> that SVO	It was <u>interesting</u> that SVO...
<u>Noun</u>	It was <u>a must</u> that SVO ...
<u>Verb</u>	It has been <u>announced</u> that SVO...

For more info refer to Unit 3 – The Future of Reading in Online Revolution - A Closer Look at Long Sentences Handout – Sentence 1b.



b. The chunk in bold, "there continues", is just another way to say "there is".

□ there is/exists/remains/come etc : used to say that something exists or happens

Examples:

There remain several questions still to be answered.

They were all laughing when there came a knock at the door.

✗ In the examples above, notice that the verb "remain" is in plural form because it precedes a plural noun.

4. And **since some of these moms wrestle with residual regret having pursued careers while leaving kids at home**, indulging them now can meet needs all around - relieving moms of their guilt while helping out their grown children.

This sentence looks particularly complex! Let's dig into it!

a. First, let's ask questions to the Adverb Clause of REASON:

... "**since** some of these moms wrestle with residual regret having pursued careers while leaving kids at home" ...

Who? these moms

What do they do? wrestle with residual regret

Why? because they pursued careers while they left their kids at home

b. Next, let's ask questions to the Main Clause:

... "indulging them now can meet needs all around"...

Who/What? indulging them

What does this do? can meet needs all around

WHY? since some of these moms wrestle with residual regret having pursued careers while leaving kids at home

In short, these moms left their children at home and worked in the past; and now

Now, let's dig deeper!!!

*Why is there a Ving after the verb "regret"?*

c. **Regret + Ving**

to feel sorry /sad about sth you've said/done

Jennifer **regrets dating** Mike.

**Regret + toV**

used when you are giving sb bad news

I **regret to announce** that the company is bankrupt.

Ok! "Regret + Ving" gives us Past Time. But in this sentence we have "having V3" after the verb "regret". Why is that so?

d.

### Having V3

In non-finite (reduced) clauses (i.e. participial phrases) we often see "having V3". And this structure generally gives the meaning of Time, Reason or Concession and EMPHASIZES THE IDEA THAT THE ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED. For example:

**TIME** The sanctions imposed on Iraq **having been lifted**, medical aid was allowed to enter the country.

After the sanctions imposed on Iraq were lifted, medical aid was allowed to enter the country.

**REASON** **Having been forbidden** to publish his own works for political reasons, he spent the rest of his life translating French novels.

Because he had been forbidden to publish his own works for political reasons, he spent the rest of his life translating French novels.

**CONCESSION** **Having sat here in the sun for two hours**, Julia still shivers.

Although she has been sitting here in the sun for two hours, Julia still shivers.

Note: There should be a logical time relationship between the verbs of the Main Clause and the Adverb Clause. Thus, we can guess the the time and tense of the "finite" (non-reduced) version of the sentence.

Therefore, in the sentence below, the chunk in bold has one of these meanings – Time, Reason or Concession. And it is Reason because this chunk gives us the reason why moms wrestle with regret.

"And since some of these moms wrestle with residual regret **having pursued careers while leaving kids at home**, indulging them now can meet needs all around - relieving moms of their guilt while helping out their grown children".

e.

And **since some of these moms wrestle with residual regret having pursued careers while leaving kids at home**, indulging them now can meet needs all around - relieving moms of their guilt while helping out their grown children.

The last clause to analyze in this sentence is "relieving moms of their guilt while helping out their grown children".

As you may have already noticed, this is a non-finite (reduced) Adjective Clause that describes the sentence before it. In other words, we can write the same Adjective Clause like this:

, which relieves moms of their guilt while helping out their grown children"