



FATHER AND DAUGHTER by Paul Simon

A lesson about adjective, adverb, and noun clauses (Chapters 12, 13, 17)

Notes for the Teacher

1. The Song

Do a search on the Internet to find the song “Father and Daughter” by Paul Simon. When you search, be sure to include the title and the name of the artist.

2. Song background

Paul Simon was born in 1941 in New Jersey. While still in high school, he began writing songs and playing the guitar. He asked his friend Art Garfunkel to sing with him, and the two of them formed a little group called Tom and Jerry. They later changed their name to Simon & Garfunkel. The group attracted the attention of a record producer who released one of their songs. Even though Simon and Garfunkel were still teenagers, the song was quite successful. Simon and Garfunkel went on to sing many songs together and to enjoy great success. Their music can still be heard around the world.

In 1970, when Simon and Garfunkel split up, Paul Simon began his solo career. He was interested in the music of the world, so he used African and Brazilian rhythms in his music. He has continued to produce solo music for over 30 years and is recognized as one of the greatest songwriters of the United States.

This song is about a father’s love for his daughter.

3. Grammar background

This song uses several different types of clauses: adjective, adverb, and noun clauses. Explain to the class that a clause has a subject, a verb, and sometimes an object. Show students examples of the three different types of clauses.

Adjective Clause. Write this sentence on the board:

Have you seen the woman **that bought the dog**?

that	bought	the dog
SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT

Ask volunteers to label the subject, the verb, and the object of the verb in the adjective clause. Then write this sentence on the board:

That’s the dog **she bought yesterday**.

she	bought	(the dog)
SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT



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Ask volunteers to label the subject and the verb of the adjective clause. Ask “What is the object of the verb in the adjective clause?” Help students see that the object of the verb (*that* or *which*) can be deleted in this type of sentence.

Explain that adjective clauses always follow nouns and describe them. For instance, in the first example, *that bought the dog* describes *the woman*. In the second example, *(that) she bought yesterday* describes *the dog*.

Adverb clause. Write this sentence on the board. Then ask a volunteer to label the subject, verb, and object.

If you have time, give me a call.

you	have	time
SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT

Explain that there are many different types of adverb clauses -- that they often answer questions about *when* or *why* something happens. Write these examples on the board:

When? I found the book ***while I was cleaning my room***.

Why? I have to study ***because I have a test tomorrow***.

See chapter 17 to review the other uses of the adverb clause.

Noun clause. Noun clauses also have a subject, a verb, and sometimes an object. Write this sentence on the board. Ask a volunteer to look at this example and label the subject, the verb, and the object.

I believe ***that he ate the cookies***.

he	ate	the cookies
SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT

Point out that with this type of noun clause, it is possible to omit the word *that*.

I believe ***he ate the cookies***.

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Write another type of noun clause which begins with a question word on the board. Have a volunteer label the subject and object of the noun clause.

I don't know **when they arrived**.

they	arrived
SUBJECT	VERB

Point out that it is not possible to omit the question word in this type of clause.

4. Vocabulary

These are just some of the words you may want to discuss during your lesson.

- **leap:** jump high in the air or over something
- **fraction:** a very small amount or part of something
- **upstream:** against the flow of a river
- **guarantee:** promise
- **Golden Retriever:** a type of dog that is known for its loyalty
- **intuition:** a person's sense of what to do
- **harsh:** cruel, difficult
- **market place:** the business world



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Student Worksheet

While you listen

1. Listen to the song once and try to understand as much as possible. What is the singer trying to tell his daughter?
 2. Now listen again for adverb clauses that begin with the following words. Try to write down a few of the words you hear after the conjunction.
 - If
 - Though
 - till (until)
 - as long as
 3. Now listen for adjective clauses. Write down a few of the words you hear after these words:
 - where
 - that
 - who
 4. Work with a partner. Look at the song lyrics. Look for noun clauses. Find one clause that starts with *where*, and two noun clauses in which *that* has been deleted.
 - where
 - 2 *that*-clauses with *that* deleted



FATHER AND DAUGHTER by Paul Simon

Student Worksheet page 2

After you listen

1. Things to think about and discuss

In pairs, small groups, or as a whole class, share your answers to these questions.

- What do you think the singer means when he says, "I can't guarantee there's nothing scary hiding under your bed."? Do you think he's really talking about a monster under the bed?
- What does the father promise his daughter that he'll do?

2. Speaking & Writing

In pairs or small groups, share your ideas about the following questions.

What qualities make a good parent?

What is it important for parents to do?

What things should parents avoid doing?

Now, write a paragraph explaining your beliefs about parenting. Try to use at least one noun clause, one adjective clause, and one adverb clause.