

Clauses: The Trilogy

Use this worksheet to review all three types of clauses. Students should have had a thorough explanation of each type prior to this.

Worksheet #1

There are three types of dependent clauses:

Noun Clauses

Adverb Clauses

Adjective Clauses

Each one has a different function within a sentence. They are part of complex sentences.

How does one differentiate among the three?

1) One way would be to pay attention to the words that introduce them.

Words that introduce **noun clauses** are: Wh- words, how, that, whether, and if

Words that introduce **adjective clauses** are: Wh-words (**except what and why**), and that

Words that introduce adverb clauses: Although many of the words that introduce noun and adjective clauses are used to introduce adverb clause, these vary depending on what the clause is expressing i.e. condition, purpose, time, etc. Adverb clauses are introduced by other expressions that are not used in noun clauses or adjective clauses.

2) Another way would be to think of them in the same manner as we would think of an adjective, an adverb, or a noun and their functions within a sentence. These clauses do the same thing, except that instead of being one word, it is a group of words. One functions as a name, another modifies a noun, and another modifies the entire sentence.

Look at these examples:

a) I love **my house**.

My house is the noun, which functions as a direct object.

If I change the word history for *what you said to me*, this clause is functioning as a direct object just like the words *history*.

- b) The mythology book, which is interesting, is on the counter top.

The information *which is interesting* is describing the book. It is providing more information by identifying the interesting book. Another example with a preposition might be: *The waiter to whom I gave the tip goes to college*. This can also be written as: *The waiter whom I gave the tip to goes to college*.

- c) I will call **tomorrow**.

I can substitute tomorrow for the following: **when I have more information**.

This sentence can also be written as: When I have more information, I will call. In both cases, it answers to the question *When*.

3) An additional way would be asking questions. A noun clause answers the question “what”; an adverb answers the questions “when,” “where,” “how,” “why,” etc.

4) Placement within a sentence is possibly the easiest clue:

- a) the **adjective clause** is always after the noun it modifies.
- b) the **adverb clause** can shift places at least 95% of the time.
- c) the **noun clause** can be:
 - 1) Subject of the sentence
 - 2) Object of the verb
 - 3) Object of the preposition
 - 4) Subjective complement
 - 5) Modified by an adjective that expresses a mental ability

You might say that adjective clause can also be placed after a preposition. Yes, that is true, but the preposition can be in front of the adjective clause or at the end of the adjective clause (see example 2b). However, when a noun clause is placed after a preposition, the preposition cannot be moved.

You should also keep in mind that most adverb clauses are somewhat flexible because they can be at the beginning of a sentence or at the end of the main clause (see example 2c); however, noun clauses have **no flexibility** at all.

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