

Dependent and Independent Clauses

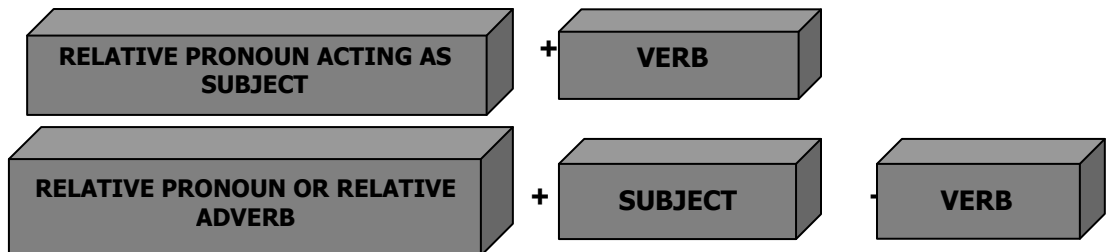
TN Language Arts Checks for Understanding

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- A **clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb.
- An **independent clause** expresses a complete thought and can stand by itself as a complete sentence.
- A **dependent clause**, or **subordinate clause**, contains a subject and a verb but cannot stand alone as a sentence. A subordinate clause must always be combined with an independent clause. A dependent clause on its own is called a sentence fragment!
- A dependent clause can act as an **adjective**, **adverb**, or **noun**.
- A **Santa Clause** climbs down your chimney on Christmas Eve.
- Understanding different types of clauses helps eliminates fragments and run-ons.

Adverb and Adjective Clauses

- **Adjective Clause:** these function as adjectives in a sentence. Adjective clauses answer the questions **which one, what kind, how much, how many**. They are introduced by a relative pronoun (**who, whom, that, whose, which**). They function as an adjective, are sometimes separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma, and should be placed next to the noun or pronoun they modify.
- **Adjective Clauses** will follow one of two patterns:



EXAMPLES:

Students *who are smart* understand adjective clauses.

(**Who** is the relative pronoun. **Are** is the verb. The clause answers **Which students**.)

Students *whom I admire* want to become English teachers.

(**Whom** is the relative pronoun. **I** is the subject. **Admire** is the verb. The clause answers **Which Students**.)

The book *that I liked best* was by a German author.

(**That** is the relative pronoun. **I** is the subject. **Liked** is the verb. The clause answers **Which Book.**)

- **Adverbial Clause:** these function as adverbs in a sentence. Adverbial clauses answer the questions **how, why and to what extent**. They are introduced by a subordinating conjunction. They function as an adverb, and are not separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma.

Common Subordinating Conjunctions

after	once	until
although	provided that	when
as	rather than	whenever
because	since	where
before	so that	whereas
even if	than	wherever
even though	that	whether
if	though	while
in order that	unless	why

EXAMPLES:

Tommy scrubbed the shower *until his arms ached*.

(**Until** is the subordinating conjunction. **Arms** is the subject. **Ached** is the verb. The clause answers **How** he scrubbed.)

The thieves ran from the building *after they heard sirens*.

(**After** is the subordinating conjunction. **They** is the subject. **Heard** is the verb. The clause answers **When** they ran.)

Because she had a new job, Kate felt very nervous all night.

(**Because** is the subordinating conjunction. **She** is the subject. **Had** is the verb. The clause answers **When or Why** she was nervous.)

Noun Clauses

- These function as nouns in a sentence, may be used anywhere in the sentence and can serve as **subject, direct object, indirect object, predicate nominative, or object of the preposition**. Noun clauses are usually introduced by a subordinating conjunction or relative adverb.

Example: **What the kids planned for dinner** was a surprise for their parents.
(subject)

Example: *The wounded reindeer wondered **why Santa was not so jolly this Christmas Eve**.* (direct object)

Example: *Santa brought **whoever was in his house** joy and positive energy.*
(indirect object)

Example: *Shark attacks are **what the scuba diver did not want**.* (predicate nominative)

Example: *The scuba instructor's safety depended on **how fast he could swim**.*(object of the preposition)

Now, it is your turn. Find the subordinate clauses in the following sentences, determine if they are ADJECTIVE, ADVERB, or NOUN. Find the word that begins the clause, its noun, and its verb.

1. If you save money, you will be able to buy a newer car.
2. Accidents occur because people do not practice safety.
3. While the noise repelled small animals, it attracted the cows and horses.
4. When Cindy left her car, she accidentally locked her keys in it.
5. The students learned what clauses were.
6. Even though the leaders met for hours, they still had no resolution.
7. When Chris was chosen as an officer, he became a new person.
8. Since Leroy managed his time wisely, he was excellent at his new job.
9. The farmers dreaded the week's weather which was threatening rain.
10. My father disapproves of my video game addiction unless it is monitored by him.