

DEPENDENT CLAUSES

A dependent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and predicate but cannot stand alone to act as a simple sentence. A dependent clause is used as one of three parts of speech: noun, adjective, or adverb.

Noun clause: begins with *that, what, which, who, whoever, whom, whomever, whose, whatever, how, when, where*; is used in any way a noun can be used: subject, direct object, indirect object, object of preposition, object of a verbal, appositive.

Examples:

Please leave a message with *whoever answers the phone*. (object of preposition)

Whatever you want to eat is fine with me. (Subject)

I did not know *that Mary and Tom are married*. (Direct object)

Fred does *whatever he can* to make good grades. (Direct object)

Adjective clause: begins with *that, which, who, whom*; is used to modify a noun or noun substitute; tells which one, what kind, or how many.

Examples:

The man *who parked his car next to mine* got a ticket. (Tells which man)

Dr. Thompson, *who teaches geology*, also enjoys a good game of golf. (Describes Dr. Thompson)

This book, *which I did not order*, is available in our library. (Describes the book, or tells which one)

The partner *with whom you worked* also made an A. (Tells which partner)

Adverb clause: begins with a subordinating conjunction (see list below); is used to tell when, where, why, how, to what extent, under what conditions.

after	inasmuch as	than
although	in case that	though
as [far/soon] as	insofar as	till
as if	in that	unless
as though	lest	until
because	no matter how	when, whenever
before	now that	where, wherever
even if	once	whether
even though	provided (that)	while
how	since so that	why
if	supposing that	

Examples:

Because I was very tired last night, I went to sleep while the news was on. (Tells why I went to sleep)

After you finish your work, you may rest until dinner is ready. (Both clauses tell when you may rest)

John ran ***as though he were racing the wind.*** (Tells how John ran)

Unless I get another job, I cannot pay all my bills. (Tells under what conditions the bills cannot be paid)

If I don't finish my chemistry lab, I cannot pass the class. (Tells why I cannot pass the class or under what conditions I may not pass)