

CHAPTER 15: THE CLAUSE

The Subordinate Clause

15c. A subordinate (or dependent) clause does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

EXAMPLE If wishes were horses

The meaning of a subordinate clause is complete only when the clause is attached to an independent clause.

EXAMPLE If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride.

Sometimes the word that begins the subordinate clause is the subject of the clause.

EXAMPLE This is a line that comes from a Mother Goose rhyme.

EXERCISE A Underline the subordinate clause in each of the following sentences. Then, write S above the subject and V above the verb of each subordinate clause.

Example 1. Before the stories by Raffi and Disney appeared, many children were learning Mother Goose rhymes.

1. England is the country where Mother Goose rhymes originated.
2. The people who composed the rhymes lived hundreds of years ago.
3. These rhymes became popular because they were fun and easy to learn.
4. If a rhyme was especially funny or interesting, children would sing it.
5. One rhyme that children enjoyed was "Baa, Baa Black Sheep."
6. Some people think that this rhyme is actually a protest against taxes.
7. In the rhyme, the three bags of wool that the sheep produces are given away.
8. Since the sheep has only three bags of wool, it is left with nothing.
9. So, "Baa, Baa Black Sheep" may be a rhyme that protests high taxes.
10. Mother Goose rhymes, which are always fun to read, may or may not have political meanings.

EXERCISE B On the line provided, expand each of the following sentences by adding a subordinate clause that begins with the word given in parentheses.

Example 1. (that) This is the trophy that our soccer team won

11. (if) On Friday we will go on a picnic _____
12. (who) Do you know _____
13. (that) Is the story _____ true?
14. (Wherever) _____ our dogs bark.
15. (because) The band canceled its performance _____

CHAPTER 15: THE CLAUSE

Independent and Subordinate Clauses

15b. An independent (or main) clause expresses a complete thought and can stand by itself as a complete sentence.

EXAMPLE I left Tina a message on her voice mail, but she never returned my call.

15c. A subordinate (or dependent) clause does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

EXAMPLES When the pot boiled over, the oatmeal spilled onto the stove.

One bird that travels long distances in the spring and fall is the osprey.

EXERCISE A On the line provided, identify each of the following word groups as an independent clause or a subordinate clause.

Example _____ subordinate 1. whenever she chops onions

1. as she learned across the table
2. they voted for a new chairperson
3. the bottle was broken
4. which they all said
5. if someone can help me
6. that the car was already in the garage
7. my birthday comes in August
8. that photograph is striking
9. is the cup full
10. since Kealey is not going

EXERCISE B Draw one line under each independent clause and two lines under each subordinate clause in the following sentences.

Example 1. When she had finished skating, the judges awarded the French skater, who was my favorite, the gold medal.

11. Dr. Zamora left the dinner party before the main course was served.
12. Before we begin the meeting, let me introduce the newest member of our team.
13. The last singer on the program is the one who can hit the high notes.
14. When the conductor tapped his baton, the orchestra fell silent.
15. One planet that has often excited the imaginations of science fiction writers is Mars, which is also called the red planet.