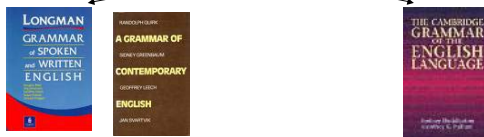


Subordination following
 Biber et al. (2002, 1999), Greenbaum
 & Quirk (1985),
 Quirk et al. (1985)
 Carter & McCarthy (2006)
 and
 Selection of Definitions from Oxford
 Reference Online
 by T.Naves
tnaves@ub.edu
<http://diposit.ub.edu/dspace/handle/2445/2>

Reference Grammars



Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G.,
 Conrad, S., & Finegan, E. (Eds.). (1999).
*Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written
 English*. London: Longman.

Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., &
 Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive
 Grammar of the English Language* (2nd
 ed.). London and New York: Longman.

Huddleston, R., &
 Pullum, G. K. (Eds.). (2002). *The
 Cambridge Grammar
 of the English
 Language*. London:
 Cambridge University
 Press.

Student's Grammars



Biber, D., S. Conrad, et al.
 (2002). *Longman Student
 Grammar of Spoken and Written
 English*. Harlow: Longman.

Greenbaum, S., & Quirk, R.
 (1990). *A Student's Grammar of
 the English Language* (1st ed.).
 Hong Kong: Longman.

Huddleston, R. and
 G. K. Pullum, Eds.
 (2005). *A Student's
 Introduction to
 English Grammar*.
 London, Cambridge
 University Press.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

TASK 1. Identify the subordinate and main clauses
 in the following examples:

- *When I asked for his opinion, he said that he could not say anything at present*
- *Road-building in those mountains is dangerous and, since work began in 1968, hundreds of labourers have been swept away by landslides*
- *Whatever happens, don't panic*
- *On hearing this, she rushed to the bank*
- *With the money under her belt, she felt better*

COMPLEX SENTENCE

KEY TASK 1. Identify the subordinate and main clauses in the following examples:

- *[[When I asked for his opinion], [[he said] [that he could not say anything at present]]]*
- *[Road-building in those mountains is dangerous] and, [[since work began in 1968], [hundreds of labourers have been swept away by landslides]]]*
- *[[Whatever happens], [don't panic]]]*
- *[[On hearing this], [she rushed to the bank]]]*
- *[[With the money under her belt], [she felt better]]]*

COMPLEX SENTENCE

COMPLEX SENTENCE. A **SENTENCE** consisting of one main **CLAUSE** in which are embedded one or more **subordinate clauses**: *I know where she lives*, in which *where she lives* is a subordinate clause. In *When I asked for his opinion, he said that he could not say anything at present*, there are two subordinate clauses: the *when*-clause and the *that*-clause. See **SUBORDINATION**.

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE. A compound **SENTENCE** in which at least one of the main **CLAUSES** contains one or more **subordinate clause**. In the following sentence, the second main clause (after *and*) contains a subordinate *since*-clause: *Road-building in those mountains is dangerous and, since work began in 1968, hundreds of labourers have been swept away by landslides.* See **SUBORDINATION**.

"COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE" Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1996. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t28_e262

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

compound-complex sentence

A sentence containing at least two coordinated clauses (making it compound) plus at least one subordinate clause (making it complex).

"compound-complex sentence" The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar. Sylvia Chalker and Edmund Weiner. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t28_e262

SUBORDINATION

TASK 2. Identify the subordinate and main clauses and classify the former as finite, nonfinite and verbless

- *He used to be shy, staying on the fringes at parties'*
- *She will help you, if at all possible*
- *He got angry after I started to beat him at table-tennis*
- *Most Iranians are Indo-Europeans who speak Persian*
- *Most Iranians are Indo-Europeans who speak Persian*
- *If necessary, I'll phone you*

SUBORDINATION

TASK 3. Identify the subordinate clause and identify its function: nominal, relative, adverbial, nominal-relative, comparative, etc.

- *That he was losing his hearing did not worry him unduly*
- *He knew that he was losing his hearing*
- *She saw a star that she had not seen before*
- *You should put it back where you found it*
- *The weather is just as nice as it was yesterday*

SUBORDINATION

KEY TASK.

- **[[That he was losing his hearing] [did not worry him unduly]** (Nominal clause working as Sb_j)
- **[[He knew] [that he was losing his hearing]** (Nominal clause working as DO)
- **[[She saw a star] [that she had not seen before]]** (Relative clause)
- **[[You should put it back] [where you found it]** (Adverbial clause working as an Adjunct)
- **[[The weather is just as nice] [as it was yesterday]]** (comparative clause)

SUBORDINATION

subordination The joining of a subordinate clause to a higher linguistic unit.

Subordination is often formally indicated by the use of a **SUBORDINATOR**, particularly in adverbial clauses. There may be no marker in some nominal clauses, nor in comment clauses, e.g.

I thought (that) I had told you
It's not easy, you know

Wh-words introduce some clauses of condition and concession:

Whatever happens, don't panic

Non-finite and verbless clauses may be introduced by a subordinator or zero, or sometimes by a preposition, e.g.

On hearing this, she rushed to the bank
With the money under her belt, she felt better

See also **MULTIPLE** subordination.

"subordination" The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar. Sylvia Chalker and Edmund Weiner. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t28_e1441

SUBORDINATION

SUBORDINATION In grammatical theory, a **relationship between two units in which one is a constituent of the other or dependent on it**. The subordinate unit is commonly a subordinate clause organized 'under' a superordinate clause. Such organization can be described in two ways: **the subordinate unit as a constituent of the superordinate unit, and the subordinate unit as dependent on but distinct from the superordinate unit**. In the **SENTENCE**, *They did it when they got home*, the subordinate *when*-clause may be either a constituent of its superordinate main **CLAUSE**, which begins with *They* and is coextensive with the entire sentence, or dependent on a more limited main clause *They did it*. There is in principle no limit (apart from comprehensibility and practicality) to the subordination of clauses one under another. In the sentence, *They saw that I was wondering who had won the competition*, the subordinate *who*-clause is a constituent of or dependent on its superordinate *that*-clause (which ends with the *competition*), while the *that*-clause is also a subordinate clause, in turn a constituent of or dependent on its superordinate clause beginning with *They*. Subordinate clauses may also be constituents of or dependent on phrases: in *What's the name of the woman who's winning the competition?*, the *who*-clause modifies the noun *woman*.

"SUBORDINATION" Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t29_e1173

SUBORDINATION

Form

Traditionally, part of a sentence can only be classed as a subordinate clause if it contains either an identifiable or an 'understood' finite verb.

In contemporary grammatical analysis, however, subordinate clauses may be classed as: finite ('I think *that nobody is in*'); nonfinite ('He used to be shy, *staying on the fringes at parties*'); verbless ('She will help you, *if at all possible*'). Traditionally, the second category would be classed as a participial phrase and the third as a clause with the verb 'understood' (*it is*). **Finite subordinate clauses are usually marked as subordinate either by an initial subordinating conjunction (after *He got angry after I started to beat him at table-tennis*) or by an initial wh-word that also functions within the clause (who in *Most Iranians are Indo-Europeans who speak Persian*, where who is the subject of the subordinate clause).** These subordination markers sometimes introduce nonfinite clauses (*while in I listened to the music while revising my report*), and verbless clauses (*if in if necessary, I'll phone you*).

"SUBORDINATION" Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t29_e1173

SUBORDINATION

Function

Subordinate clauses fall into four functional classes: nominal, relative, adverbial, comparative. Nominal or noun clauses function to a large extent like noun phrases: they can be subject of the sentence (*That he was losing his hearing did not worry him unduly*) or direct object (*He knew that he was losing his hearing*). Relative or adjective/adjectival clauses modify nouns: the *that*-clause modifies *star* in 'She saw a star *that she had not seen before*.' Adverbial or adverb clauses function to a large extent like adverbs: the adverb *there* could replace the *where*-clause in 'You should put it back *where you found it*.' Comparative clauses are used in comparison and are commonly introduced by *than* or *as*: 'The weather is better *than it was yesterday*'; 'The weather is just as nice as it was yesterday.'

"SUBORDINATION" Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t29_e1173

SUBORDINATION

All such clauses occur in **complex sentences**. Subordination contrasts with **COORDINATION**, in which the units, commonly the clauses of a compound sentence, have equal status: the clauses joined by *but* in *We wanted to visit the cathedral first, but the children wanted to see the castle straight away*.

Sentences in which both subordinate and coordinate clauses occur are compound-complex sentences: with *before* and *but* in *We wanted to visit the cathedral before we did anything else, but the children wanted to see the castle straight away*.

"SUBORDINATION" Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t29_e1173

SUBORDINATION

subordination. 1. = dependency.

2. = modification (1). The first sense is usual and traditional: thus subordination or 'hypotaxis' (respectively the Latin and the Greek for 'ordering under') is opposed to **coordination** or 'parataxis' ('ordering beside'). The second sense is that of, among others, Bloomfield.

"subordination" The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics. P. H. Matthews. Oxford University Press, 1997. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t36_e3044

SUBORDINATOR

subordinator A conjunction introducing a subordinate clause.

Most subordinators are single-word conjunctions, e.g.

although, because, before, since, whereas

but there are also multi-word subordinators

in order that, provided (that), as long as, in case

See also **MARGINAL** subordinator.

"subordinator" The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar. Sylvia Chalker and Edmund Weiner. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t28_e1442

NOMINAL CLAUSES

TASK 4 Classify the following nominal clauses

- *What happened next remains a mystery*
- *She alleges she doesn't remember a thing*
- *The question is how we should proceed*
- *I'm not sure if we should report this*
- *It depends on what happens next*
- *The question, whether this is a criminal matter, is not easy to answer*
- *He's talking about facing the music*
- *To err is human*
- *All I did was laugh*

NOMINAL CLAUSES

KEY 4

- [*What happened next*] remains a mystery (S)
- He alleges [*(that) he doesn't remember a thing*] (O)
- The question is [*how we should proceed*] (C)
- I'm not sure [*if we should report this*] (complement of adjective)
- It depends on [*what happens next*] (complement of preposition)
- The question, [*whether this is a criminal matter*], is not easy to answer (apposition)
- He's talking [*about facing the music*] (complement of preposition)
- [*To err*] is human (Nonfinite To-Inf clause S)
- All I did was [*laugh*] (Nominal Nonfinite Infinitive clause working as Sbj. Compl)

NOMINAL CLAUSE

nominal clause 1. A clause functioning like a noun (or noun phrase). (Also called noun clause.)

Nominal clauses, other than nominal relative clauses, tend to be abstract in meaning. A nominal clause can be a subject, object, or complement in sentence structure:

[*What happened next*] remains a mystery (S)
He alleges [*(that) he doesn't remember a thing*] (O)
The question is [*how we should proceed*] (C)

and can function in various other ways:

I'm not sure [*if we should report this*] (compl. of adjective)
It depends on [*what happens next*] (compl. of preposition)
The question, [*whether this is a criminal matter*], is not easy to answer (apposition)

"nominal clause". The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar. Sylvia Chalker and Edmund Weiner. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t28_e024

NOMINAL CLAUSE

In grammatical analyses which allow non-finite clauses, nominal clauses include -ing clauses and infinitive clauses:

He's talking about *facing the music*
To err is human
All I did was *laugh*

2. (In some popular grammars.) Restricted in various ways, e.g. to mean **NOMINAL RELATIVE CLAUSE**.

In these descriptions, other nominal clauses (in sense 1) are simply called *that-clause*, *reported question*, and so on.

Compare **NOMINAL RELATIVE CLAUSE**.

"nominal clause". The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar. Sylvia Chalker and Edmund Weiner. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t28_e024

RELATIVE CLAUSE

TASK 5 . Classify the following relative clauses into adnominal, nominal-relative and sentential:

- *She exercises for an hour a day, which would bore me*
- *The book that I have just read*
- *My uncle, who lives in Brazil, is coming to see us*
- *My uncle who lives in Brazil is coming to see us*
- *He says whatever he likes*
- *I found what you were looking for*
- *The game which they were playing*
- *He kept on bragging about his success, which annoyed all of us*
- *I put the money in*
- *The music she composed*

RELATIVE CLAUSE

KEY 5

- *She exercises for an hour a day, which would bore me* (Sentential)
- *The book that I have just read* (Adnominal)
- *My uncle, who lives in Brazil, is coming to see us* (Adnominal)
- *My uncle who lives in Brazil is coming to see us* (Adnominal)
- *He says whatever* (anything that) *he likes* (Nominal-relative)
- *I found what* (that which; the thing that) *you were looking for* (Nominal-relative)
- *The game which they were playing* (Adnominal)
- *He kept on bragging about his success, which annoyed all of us* (Sentential)
- *I put the money in* (Adnominal)
- *The music she composed* (Adnominal)

RELATIVE CLAUSE

relative clause. A clause which modifies the head of a noun phrase and typically includes a pronoun or other element whose reference is linked to it. E.g. in *the man who came*, a relative clause *who came* modifies *man*: cf. [modification \(1\)](#). Within this clause, *who* is a *relative pronoun* (traditionally seen as [anaphoric](#) to *man*) which does not have an independent referent.

Thence to clauses with a similar element that are not modifiers: e.g. *who dares* is a [free relative clause](#) in *Who dares wins*. Also to modifying clauses in which a relative pronoun is seen as [null](#) or deleted. Thus *you saw*, or, with a null element, *Ø you saw*, is a relative clause in *That is the man you saw*.

"relative clause" *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics*. P. H. Matthews. Oxford University Press, 1997. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=136_e2656

RELATIVE CLAUSE

RELATIVE CLAUSE In grammatical description, the term for a [CLAUSE](#) introduced by a relative word or a phrase containing a relative word. **There are three types of relative clause:**

- **the adnominal relative clause**
 - (restrictive and
 - nonrestrictive)
- **the sentential relative clause;**
- **the nominal relative clause.**

"RELATIVE CLAUSE" *Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language*. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=25_e1043

ADNOMINAL RELATIVE CLAUSE

The adnominal relative clause

(also *relative clause*, *noun clause*). This clause modifies a noun as in: (*the book*) *that I have just read*.

- It may be introduced by a [RELATIVE PRONOUN](#) such as *who*, *which*, *that*, or by a phrase containing a relative pronoun, such as *for which*, *to whom*, *in the presence of whom*, or by a relative adverb, such as *where*, *when*: (*the hotel*) *where he stayed*.
- Under certain circumstances, the relative pronoun may be omitted: (*the music*) *she composed*; (*the safe*) *I put the money in*.
- Adnominal relative clauses of the type (*She told me the reason*) *that they gave* are to be distinguished from the superficially similar appositive clause that also modifies a noun: (*She told me the reason*) *that they left*.
- The appositive clause is introduced by the conjunction *that*, which may sometimes be omitted: (*the reason*) *they left*. The difference between the two types of clause is that the appositive clause is complete in itself (*they left*, not *they left the reason*), whereas the relative clause requires the relative item to be present or to be understood, since it functions in the clause (*they gave that*, meaning *they gave the reason*).
- The relationship between a noun and its appositive clause differs from that between a noun and its relative clause in that it may be expressed by inserting the verb **be** between the two: *The reason is that they left*. Furthermore, the nouns that are modified by an appositive clause are restricted to a small set of general abstract nouns such as *fact*, *idea*, *news*, *report*.

"RELATIVE CLAUSE" *Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language*. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=25_e1043

RESTRICTIVE AND NON-RESTRICTIVE

The two major types of adnominal relative clauses are *restrictive relative clauses* and *non-restrictive relative clauses*.

- A **restrictive relative clause (also defining relative clause)** is a relative clause with the semantic function of defining more closely what the noun modified by the clause is referring to. In the sentence *My uncle who lives in Brazil is coming to see us*, the relative clause *who lives in Brazil* restricts the reference of *my uncle*. The restrictive modification would distinguish this uncle from any others who might have been included.
- A **non-restrictive relative clause (also non-defining relative clause)** adds information not needed for identifying what a modified noun is referring to. The sentence *My uncle, who lives in Brazil, is coming to see us* contains the non-restrictive relative clause *who lives in Brazil*. This clause provides information about the uncle, but his identity is presumed to be known and not to need further specification. Non-restrictive relative clauses are usually separated from the noun phrases they modify by parenthetical punctuation (usually [COMMAS](#), but sometimes dashes or brackets). In speech, there may be a pause that serves the same function as the parenthesis.

"RELATIVE CLAUSE" *Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language*. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=25_e1043

SENTENTIAL RELATIVE CLAUSE

The sentential relative clause

- This clause does not modify a noun. It may refer back to part of a sentence (*She exercises for an hour a day, which would bore me*: that is, the exercising would bore the speaker), to a whole sentence (*He kept on bragging about his success, which annoyed all of us*: that is, the continual bragging about his success annoyed everybody), or occasionally to more than one sentence (*I didn't enjoy the work. The weather was atrocious. I felt thoroughly homesick. And the locals were unpleasant. Which is why I have never been back there again*).
- **Which** is the most common relative word to introduce a sentential relative clause, sometimes within a phrase (*in which case, as a result of which*), but other relative expressions with this type of clause include *whereon*, *whereupon*, *from when*, *by when*.

"RELATIVE CLAUSE" *Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language*. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=25_e1043

SENTENTIAL RELATIVE CLAUSE

Nominal relative clauses

- In the adnominal and sentential relative clauses, the relative word has as *antecedent*, a word or longer unit to which the relative word refers back: in *the game which they were playing*, the antecedent of *which is the game*, since in its clause *which* substitutes for *the game* (they were playing the game). The relative word in the nominal relative clause has no antecedent, since the antecedent is fused with the relative: *I found what* (that which; the thing that) *you were looking for*; *He says whatever* (anything that) *he likes*.
- Because they are free of antecedents, such clauses are sometimes called *independent* or *free relative clauses*. See [ADJECTIVE CLAUSE](#).

"RELATIVE CLAUSE" *Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language*. Ed. Tom McArthur. Oxford University Press, 1998. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press. http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=25_e1043

NOMINAL-RELATIVE CLAUSE

nominal relative clause A type of clause which has a nominal function, but which like many relative clauses begins with a *wh*-word, though unlike a relative clause it contains the antecedent within itself. (Also called fused relative construction, independent relative clause, or free relative clause. In popular grammar, nominal relative clauses are not distinguished from *nominal/noun clauses*.)

A nominal relative clause can refer to people and things, as well as to abstract ideas. Examples:

I don't know *what happened* (= I don't know [that which] happened)
Whoever told you that was wrong (= [that person who] told you that was wrong)

"nominal relative clause" *The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar*, Sylvia Chalker and Edmund Weiner. Oxford University Press, 1998. *Oxford Reference Online*, Oxford University Press. <http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t28.e929>

ADVERBIAL CLAUSES

adverb clause Any clause (finite, non-finite, or verbless) functioning adverbially, that is, expressing notions such as time, reason, condition, concession, etc.:

I'll come *when I'm ready*
They succeeded *because they persevered*
Don't do it, *unless you're sure*
Although injured, he struggled on
While travelling, he contracted jaundice
Make it Thursday, *if possible*

In more traditional usage, only the finite clauses (i.e. the first three examples) would be included here.

Adverb (or *adverbial*) clauses are often classified on semantic grounds into such categories as clauses of **TIME**, **PLACE**, **CONDITION**, **CONCESSION**, **PURPOSE**, **RESULT**, **COMPARISON**, **MANNER**, and **COMMENT**.

"adverb clause" *The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar*, Sylvia Chalker and Edmund Weiner. Oxford University Press, 1998. *Oxford Reference Online*, Oxford University Press. <http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t28.e36>

Main Grammar References:

Biber, D., S. Conrad, et al. (2002). *Longman Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Harlow: Longman.

Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S., & Finegan, E. (Eds.). (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. London: Longman.

Carter, R., & McCarthy, M. (2006). *Cambridge Grammar of English. A Comprehensive Guide. Spoken and Written English Grammar and Usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Main Grammar References:

Greenbaum, S., & Quirk, R. (1990). *A Student's Grammar of the English Language* (1st ed.). Hong Kong: Longman.

Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (2nd ed.). London and New York: Longman.

Huddleston, R., & Pullum, G. K. (Eds.). (2002). *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Huddleston, R. and G. K. Pullum, Eds. (2005). *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. London, Cambridge University Press

Main Dictionaries:

Chalker, S., & Weiner, E. (1998). *Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar. The Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Matthews, P. H. (1997). *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press.