Clauses



Read these sentences.

Tony: The break bell has rung. Let’s go to the field.

Ravi: The school team is practising on the basketball court which is at the far end of the field.

Beena: Let’s go there before the bell rings again.

Tony: I hope that our team wins!





REMEMBER

- A clause is a group of words that may form part of a sentence, or it may be a complete sentence in itself.
- It has a subject and predicate of its own.

Main or **Independent Clause**

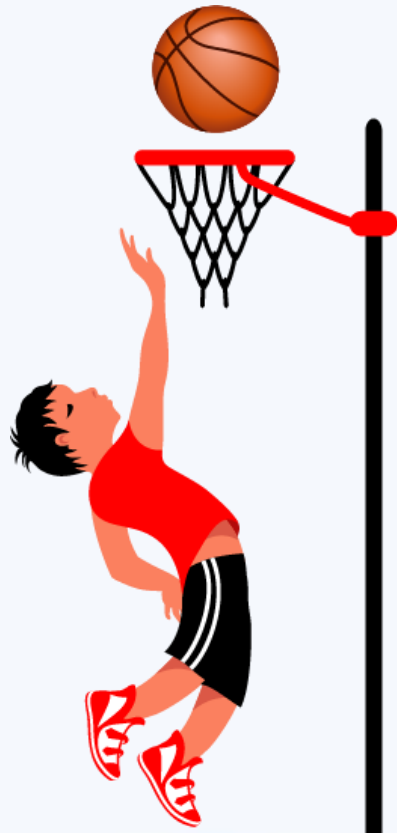
- Every sentence has a main clause.

Example: The school team is practising on the basketball court.
This is a main clause or an independent clause as it conveys a complete thought and can stand by itself.

Subordinate or **Dependent Clause**

- A subordinate clause depends on a main clause for its meaning. It is a dependent clause.

Example: which is at the far end of the field.



Types of Clauses





ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

An **adjective clause** functions as an adjective in a sentence. It is generally introduced by the words **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which** or **that**.

We use who, whom and whose for living beings and which for animals and non-living things. That can be used for both living beings and non-living things.

Example:

The school team is practising on the basketball court, which is at the far end of the field.

Here, which is at the far end of the field describes the noun ‘court’ in the **main clause**, *The school team is practising on the basketball court*.



NOUN CLAUSE

A **noun clause** functions as a noun in a sentence. It can function as the subject of the verb, the object of the verb, the complement of the verb, or the object of a preposition.

A noun clause is introduced by the word that or a question word (such as why, how, what or when) or if/whether.

Example:

I told her that it was raining outside!



that it was raining outside is the object of the verb ‘told’ in the **main clause**, *I told her*.



ADVERB CLAUSE

An **adverb clause** modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb and tells us how, where, when, why, how often and to what degree an action takes place.

Example:

Let’s go there before the bell rings again.



Here, before the bell rings again modifies the verb ‘go’ in the **main clause**, *Let’s go there*.



ADVERB CLAUSE

TYPES OF ADVERB CLAUSES:

1. Adverb clause of manner: *as, as if, like*
2. Adverb Clause of Place: *where, wherever, anywhere, everywhere*
3. Adverb Clause of Time: *when, while, as soon as, since, after, before, as, whenever, till, until, no sooner… then, hardly… when, scarcely… when, etc.*
4. Adverb Clause of Purpose: *so that, in order to, in order that, lest*
5. Adverb Clause of Effect: *so that, such that*
6. Adverb Clause of Reason: *because, since, as*
7. Adverb Clause of Condition: *if, unless*
8. Adverb Clause of Contrast: *although, even though, though, while, even if*

Try On Your Own

Say which is the subordinate clause in each sentence. State whether the clause is a noun clause, an adverb clause or an adjective clause.

1. We know that our school team will be chosen.
2. Kiran waited there until I arrived.
3. He is the person who spoke to us yesterday.
4. She said that she would visit me.
5. I believe what he says.

