

A clause is a sentence or part of a sentence that conveys a relationship between a subject and a verb. A clause must contain a subject and a verb. A clause can stand alone as a complete sentence or be part of a larger sentence.

Dependent clauses contain a subject and verb but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. They must be linked to an independent clause to create a complete sentence. There are three types of dependent clauses, all of which express different information.

A nominal clause is a group of words that includes a verb that take the place of a noun (a person, place, or thing). A nominal clause can function as the subject, object, or complement of a sentence.

Example: Maria does what she can to help her friends.

A relative clause provides information about a noun, such as descriptions or characteristics, and must follow a noun.

Example: That ball that is red costs \$11.

An adverbial clause provides additional information about a verb. These clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions.

Example: Joe went running after he finished class.

Independent clauses contain a subject and verb and function as complete sentences. There are three kinds of complete sentences that are made up of clauses: compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. Each are described on the next page.

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