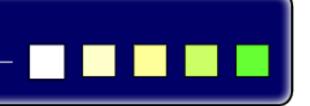
EFL Tutoring

English as a Foreign Language



English Grammar

A Student's Guide to Clause Types in Academic Writing

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Clauses can contain 5 different components

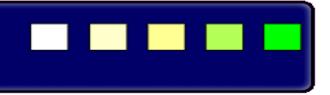
Subject

Verb

Object

Complement

Adverbial



Subject

The person or thing which performs the action of a verb (Cambridge Learner's Dictionary)

Students [subject] must write in an academic style.

Academic writing [subject] is difficult.

The purpose of this essay [subject] is to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet.

Verb

A word or phrase that describes an action, condition or experience (Cambridge Learner's Dictionary)

This essay will <u>discuss</u> [verb describing an action] the role of the monarchy in the UK today.

The monarch <u>is</u> [verb describing a state or condition] the figurative head of state in the United Kingdom.



Object

An object can be direct or indirect

Direct Object: A person, place, or thing that is affected by the action of a verb, or involved in the result of an action (CLD)

Indirect Object: A person , place, or thing that benefits from the action of a verb

(Adapted from Seely, 2009)





Complement

Part of a clause that completes information about a subject or object that appears earlier in the clause

Academic writing [subject] is difficult [subject complement]

<u>Academic writing</u> makes <u>students</u> [object] <u>feel</u> <u>stresse</u>d [object complement]

Adapted from Seely, 2009





Adverbial

A word or phrase in a clause that answer questions

Where? The course is offered at the University of Glasgow [adverbial]

When? Many students graduate when they are in their early twenties [adverbial]

Why? Psychology is important because little is known about the workings of the mind [adverbial]





There are 5 basic clause types in English

Subject + verb

Subject + verb + object

Subject + verb + complement

Subject + verb + object + complement

Subject + verb + indirect object + direct object





Examples

Subject + verb

A book [subject] fell [verb].

Subject + verb + object

A student [subject] read [verb] the book [object].

Subject + verb + complement

The book [subject] was [verb] interesting [complement].



Examples

Subject + verb + object + complement

The student [subject] found [verb] the book [object] interesting [complement].

Subject + verb + indirect object + direct object

The student [subject] gave [verb] his professor [indirect object] some notes [some notes].

Some clauses contain 'adverbials': words or phrases about 'where, when, how, or why'.

Subject + verb + adverbial

Subject + verb + object + adverbial



Examples

Subject + verb + adverbial: A book fell on the floor.

The adverbial 'on the floor' answers the question: Where did the book fall?

Subject + verb + object + adverbial: A student read the book with interest.

The adverbial 'with interest' answers the question: How did the student read the book?





Adverbial clauses are not usually essential to the meaning of the sentence

Example

He found the book on the shelf

The adverbial 'on the shelf' could be removed and the sentence would still make sense.



Some adverbial clauses are essential to the grammar and meaning of the sentence

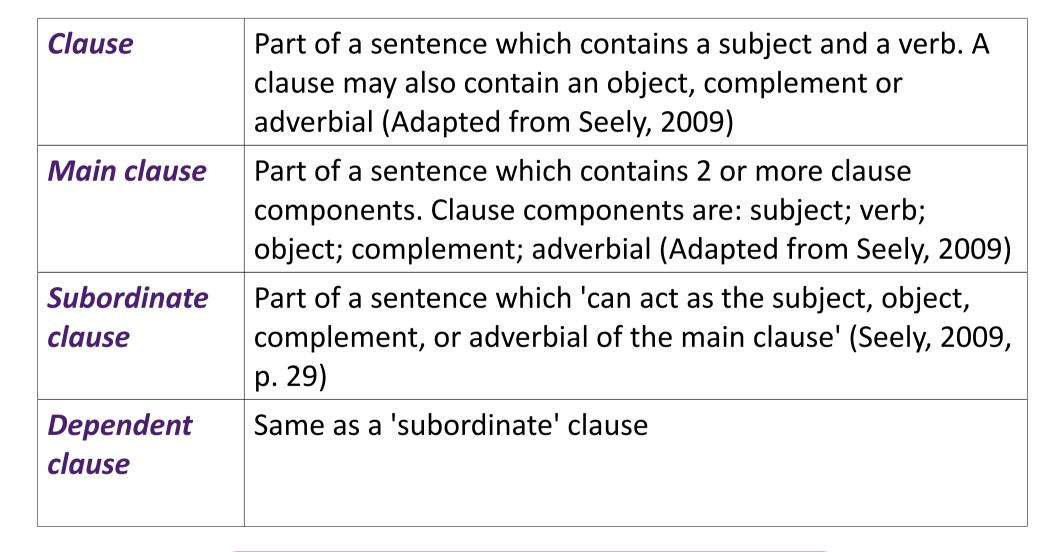
I placed the book on the table

The meaning of the verb 'placed' requires an adverbial to be grammatically correct.

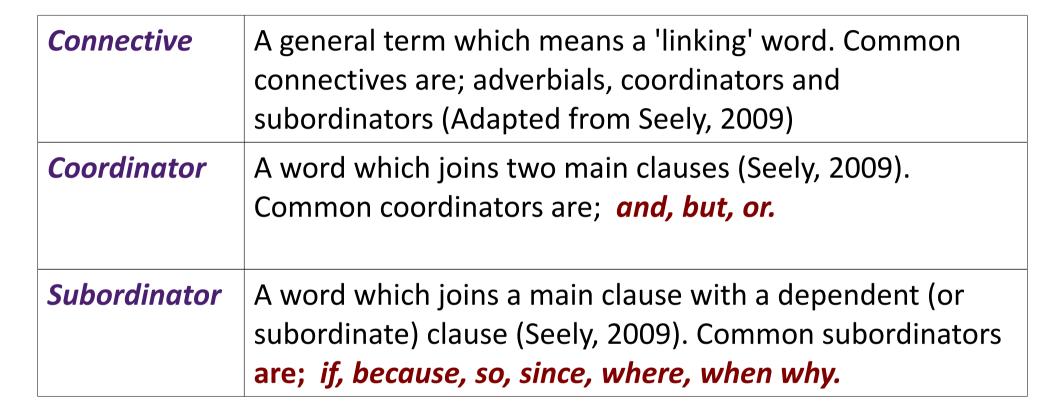
Note: It is possible to check whether a verb requires an adverbial by checking in a good leaner's dictionary



Glossary



Glossary



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Thank you for watching!



Dr Barbara Howarth