

SYNTAX

PART 1

Phrases

The Outline of Our Presentation

- ▶ Syntax
 - ▶ Phrase
 - ▶ Types of phrase
 - ▶ Structure and tree of phrase
- ▶ Clause
 - ▶ Types of clause
- ▶ Sentence
 - ▶ Pragmatic aspect
 - ▶ Grammatical structure

WHAT IS "SYNTAX"?

- Syntax is the study of sentence patterns of language
- The aim of this study is to show you what **syntactic structure** is and what the rules that determine syntactic structure are like.

What meant by “**structure**” here, is **word order**.
The meaning of a sentence depends on the order
in which words occur in a sentence.

Compare the following sentences:

- ❑ I sing because I am happy.
- ❑ I am happy because I sing.

The two sentences above have the same **categories**
and **number of words**, but different in **structure**
(words order); thus, they have different **meanings**.

SYNTACTIC CATEGORY

- **Syntactic category** is a set of words and/or phrases in a language which share a significant number of common characteristics.
- Syntactic categories commonly include:
 1. **Parts of Speech:**
(Determiner, Adjective, Noun, Pronoun, Preposition, Adverb, Auxiliary, Verb), etc;
 2. **Phrase Structure Grammars:**
(Noun Phrase, Adjective Phrase, Verb Phrase, Adverb Phrase, Preposition Phrase); and
 3. **Sentence**, as the core of the structure.

The syntactic categories are illustrated in a tree diagram, called **phrase structure tree**, by supplying the name of the syntactic category of each word grouping. These names are often referred to as **syntactic labels** (usually written by the initials of the categories), such as:



• Sentence	: S
• Determiner	: Det
• Adjective	: Adj
• Adverb	: Adv
• Noun	: N
• Verb	: V
• Pronoun	: Pro
• Preposition	: P
• Auxiliary Verb	: Aux
• Preposition Phrase	: PP
• Adverb Phrase	: AdvP
• Adjective Phrase	: AdjP
• Noun Phrase	: NP
• Verb Phrase	: VP

**Syntactic
Labels**

Dealing with the **phrase structure grammars** as a part of syntactic category, it is important to comprehend the concepts of:

*Noun Phrase (NP),
Adjective Phrase (AdjP),
Verb Phrase (VP),
Adverb Phrase (AdvP), and
Preposition Phrase (PP).*

But first of all, let us see what the definition of PHRASE is.

PHRASE:

- A **phrase** is a sequence of words or a group of words arranged in a grammatical construction, and functions as a unit in a sentence.
- There are five commonly occurring types of phrase. They are:
 - ✓ **Noun Phrase** (*NP*);
 - ✓ **Adjective Phrase** (*AdjP*);
 - ✓ **Verb Phrase** (*VP*);
 - ✓ **Adverb Phrase** (*AdvP*); and
 - ✓ **Preposition Phrase** (*PP*).

A. NOUN PHRASE

- A **noun phrase** refers to a phrase that built upon a noun which functions as the headword of the phrase.

- Example:

1. The young man threw the old dog a bone.
(NP) (NP) (NP)

2. Pretty girls whispered softly.
(NP)

B. ADJECTIVE PHRASE

- An **adjective phrase** refers to a phrase that modifies a noun. It built upon an adjective which functions as the headword of the phrase.

Examples:

1. She seemed extremely pleasant.

(AdjP)

2. You are much quicker than I.

(AdjP)

C. VERB PHRASE

- A **verb phrase** refers to a phrase that composed of at least one verb and the dependents of the verb, in which the verb functions as the headword of the phrase.

Examples:

1. He has been singing.
(VP)

2. The child found the puppy.
(VP)

D. ADVERB PHRASE

- An **adverb phrase** refers to a phrase that often plays the role of telling us when, where, why, or how an event occurred, in which the adverb functions as the headword of the phrase.

Examples:

1. We are expecting him to come next year.

AdvP

2. He ran very quickly.

AdvP

E. PROPOSITION PHRASE

- A **preposition phrase** refers to a phrase that begins with a preposition, in which the preposition functions as the headword of the phrase.

Examples:

1. He arrived by plane.
(PP)

2. Do you know that man with the scar?
(PP)

PHRASE STRUCTURE TREE

- **Phrase structure tree** (also called ***constituent structure tree***), is a tree diagram with syntactic category information provided. A phrase structure tree shows that a sentence is both linear string of words and a hierarchical structure with phrases nested in phrases (combination of phrase structures)
- A phrase structure tree is a formal device for representing speaker's knowledge about phrase structure in speech.

BASIC PHRASE STRUCTURE RULES:

1

$S \rightarrow NP VP$

2

$NP \rightarrow (Det) (Adj) N (PP)$

3

$VP \rightarrow V (NP) (PP) (Adv)$

4

$PP \rightarrow P NP$

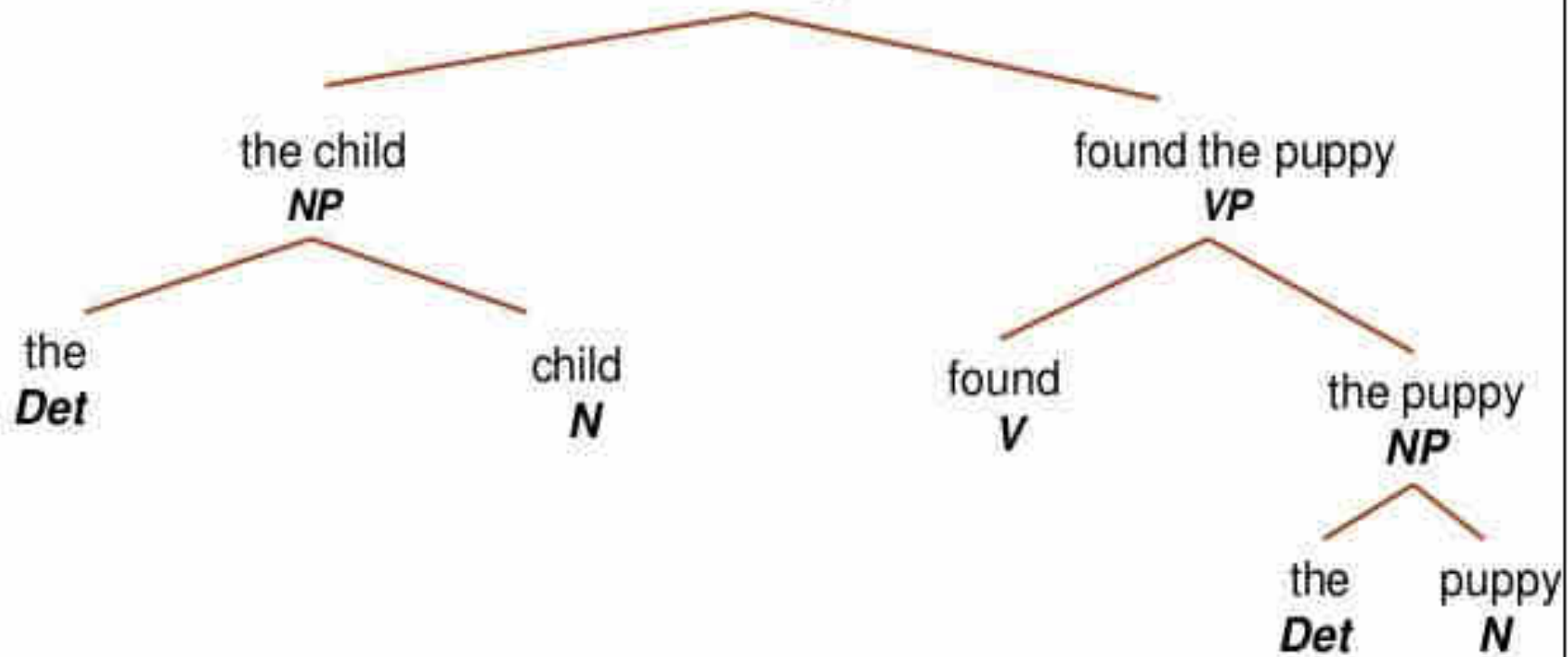
For instance, we can make the **phrase structure tree** to the following sentence:

“The child found the puppy”

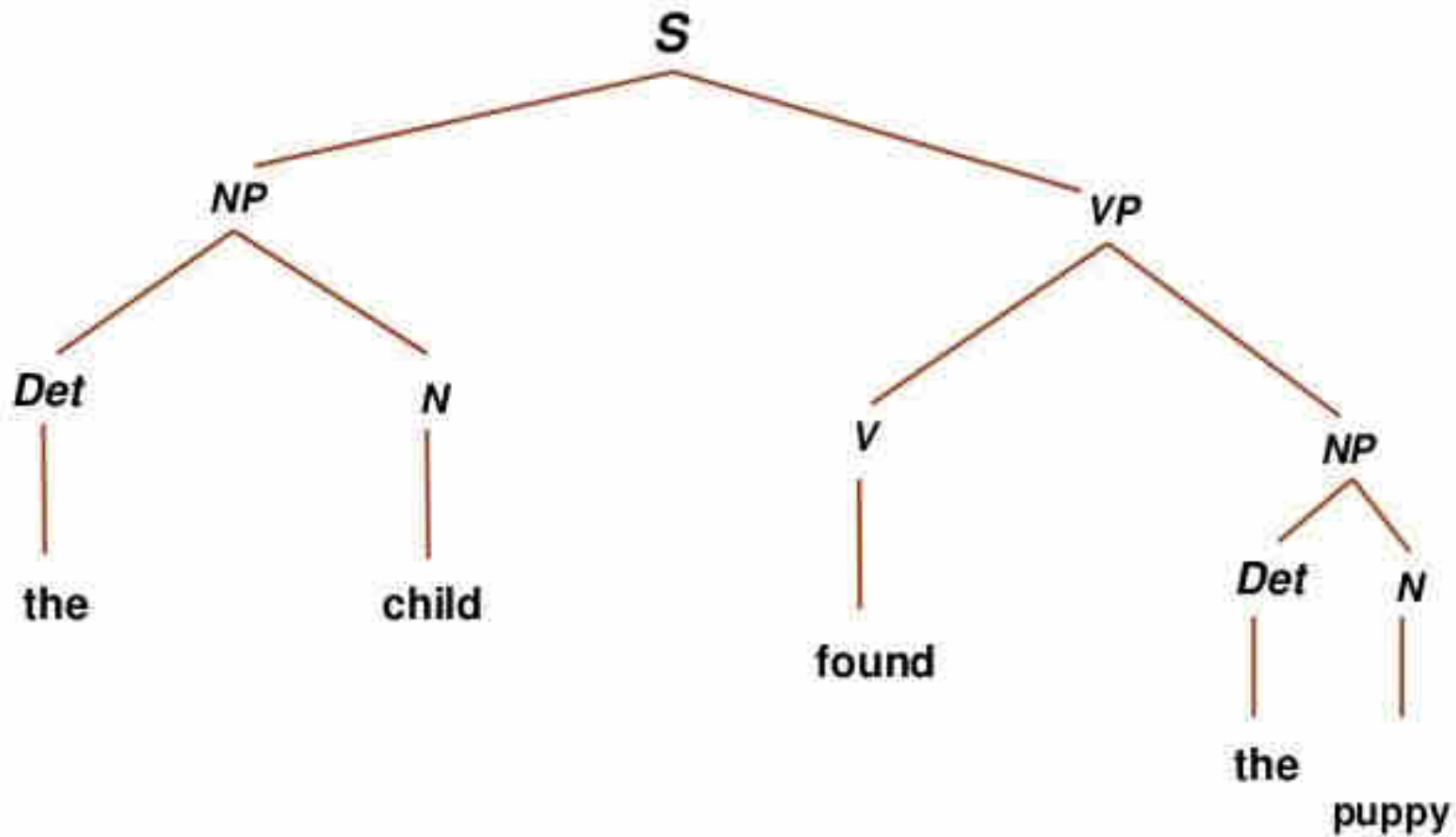


The child found the puppy

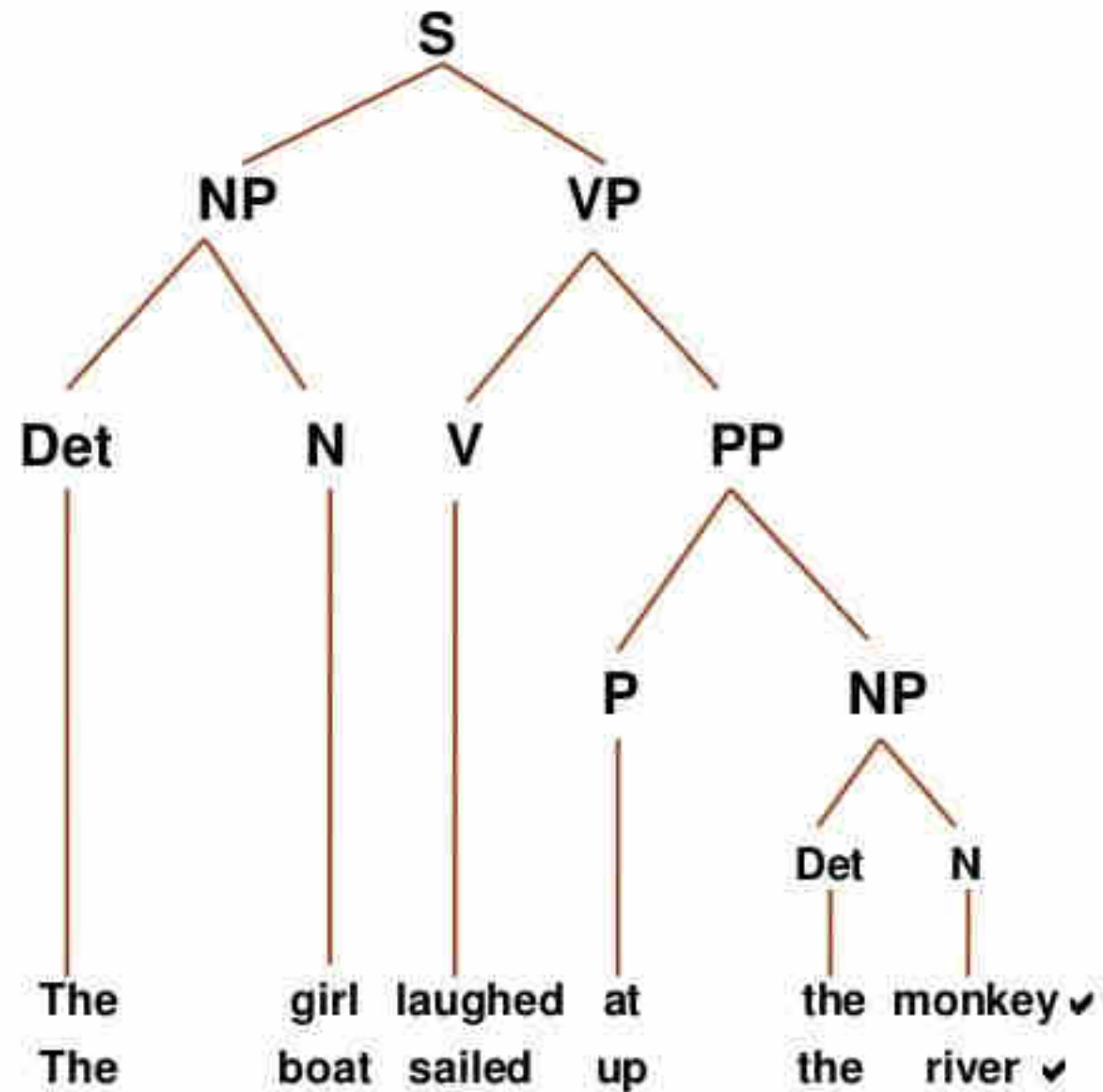
S



The phrase structure tree above is correct, but it is redundant;
The word "**child**" is repeated three times;
The word "**puppy**" is repeated four times; and so on.



In the simplified version of phrase structure tree above, no information is lost. The syntactic category of each individual word appears immediately above that word. In this way, "*the*" is shown to be a Determiner, "*child*" is a Noun, and so on.



The background of the slide features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are concentrated on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect.

Which of these is the best definition of syntax?

- (A) The study of the rules governing specifically the sounds that form words.
- (B) The study of the rules governing sentence formation.
- (C) The study of the rules governing word formation.

Which of these is the best definition of syntax?

(A) The study of the rules governing specifically the sounds that form words.

➡ (B) The study of the rules governing sentence formation.

(C) The study of the rules governing word formation.

Opening the gate, Jose let his dog into the yard.

(A) Phrase

(B) Clause

Opening the gate, Jose let his dog into the yard.

→ (A) Phrase

(B) Clause

The player who hits the winning run will be the MVP for the game.

(A) Phrase

(B) Clause

The player who hits the winning run will be the MVP for the game.

(A) Phrase

→ (B) Clause

SYNTAX

PART 2

Clauses

What is "Clause"?

1. A **clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and predicate, and functioning as a member of a sentence.
2. A **clause** is the smallest grammatical unit that contains minimally a subject and a predicate, that can or cannot express a complete thought or idea.

There are two kinds of clauses:

1. **Main clause** (independent clause), a clause that can stand alone as a sentence (can make sense by itself); also known as a ***simple sentence***.
2. **Subordinate clause** (dependent clause), a clause that add the additional information to the main clause, but which cannot stand alone as a sentence.

In a complex sentence, at least consists of **one main clause** and **one subordinate clause**, for example:

"He believed that the earth was round".

main clause

subordinate clause

Clause

```
graph TD; Clause[Clause] --> Main["Main Clause  
(Independent Clause)"]; Clause --> Subordinate["Subordinate Clause  
(Dependent Clause)"]
```

**Main Clause
(Independent
Clause)**

**Subordinate
Clause
(Dependent
Clause)**

**Subordinate
Clause**

```
graph TD; A[Subordinate Clause] --> B[Noun Clause]; A --> C["Adjectival Clause (Relative Clause)"]; A --> D[Adverbial Clause];
```

Noun Clause

**Adjectival
Clause
(Relative Clause)**

Adverbial Clause

A. NOUN CLAUSE

- A **noun clause** is a clause that contains a finite verb (a form that shows the integrated relation between tense and subject of a verb), and functioning like a noun within a sentence.
- Common types of **noun clause** in English may include:
 - A. **Noun Clause** with “**that**”;
 - B. **Noun Clause** with “**if/whether**”;
 - C. **Noun Clause** with “**wh-** words”.

Examples:

A. Noun Clause with “that”:

1. I believe that everything happens for a reason.
2. I know that the students studied their assignment.

B. Noun clause with “if” or “whether”:

1. I don't know if my sister is at home.
2. I don't know whether my sister is at home.
3. I don't know whether my sister is at home or not.
4. I don't know whether or not my sister is at home.

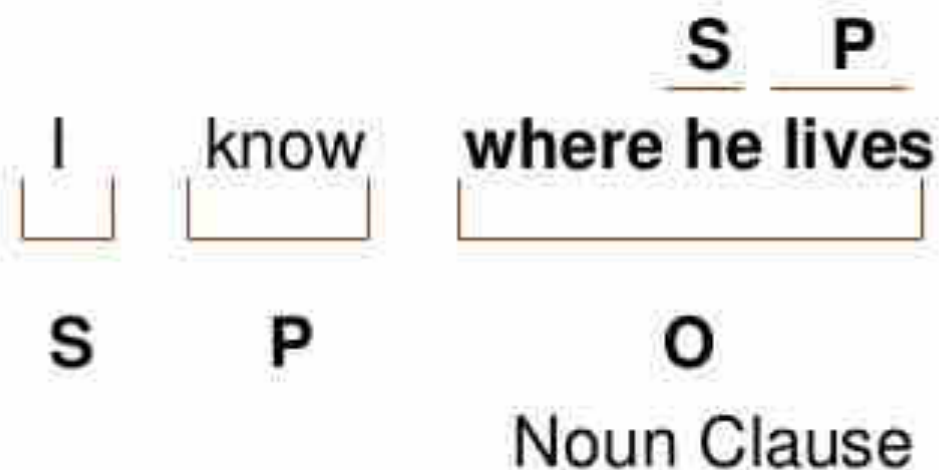
C. Noun Clause with “wh- words”:

1. I want to know what makes you laugh.
2. I don't know where he lives.
3. Please tell me how old you are.
4. I wonder why Tom is absent.
5. Do you know when they left?
6. Tell me whom you saw at the party.
7. Tell me who came to the party.
8. You haven't told me whose car this is.

- A **noun clause** has its own subject and predicate.

In a sentence:

I know where he lives, for instance, “**he**” is the subject of the noun clause; and “**lives**” is the predicate (in **verb** category) of the noun clause.



B. ADJECTIVAL CLAUSE

- An **adjective clause** (also called **relative clause**), is a clause that modifies a noun. It describes or gives information about a noun.
- An **adjectival clause** usually begins with a **relative pronoun** (*who, whom, that, which, and whose*) or a **relative adverb** (*where and when*).
- There are two basic types of adjective clauses:
 - A. **Nonrestrictive** (nonessential) adjective clause;
 - B. **Restrictive** (essential) adjective clause.

A. Nonrestrictive (nonessential) adjective clause:

The clause that simply gives extra information about the noun.

Example:

*'My older brother's car, **which he bought two years ago**, has already needed many repairs'.*

B. Restrictive (essential) adjective clause:

The clause that offers essential information and is needed to complete the sentence's thought.

Example:

*'The room **that you reserved for the meeting** is not ready'.*

Other Examples of Adjectival Clause with "who", "whom", and ("that"):

"Who" functions as a Subject Pronoun:

1. *The beautiful lady who sits next to me is friendly.*
2. *The beautiful lady that sits next to me is friendly.*

"Whom" functions as an Object Pronoun:

3. *The beautiful lady whom I met yesterday was friendly.**
4. *The beautiful lady that I met yesterday was friendly.*

***INFORMAL:** The beautiful lady **who** I met yesterday was friendly.

**OTHER EXAMPLES OF ADJECTIVAL CLAUSE WITH
“WHICH”, “WHOSE”, “WHEN”, AND “WHERE”:**

1. a. The river **which flows through town** is polluted.
b. The river **that flows through town** is polluted.
2. a. The books **which I bought** were expensive.
b. The books **that I bought** were expensive.
c. The books **I bought** were expensive.
3. The man **whose car was stolen** called the police.
4. I know a girl **whose brother is a movie star**.
5. I remember the day **when we won the cup**.
6. The town **where they met** was called London.

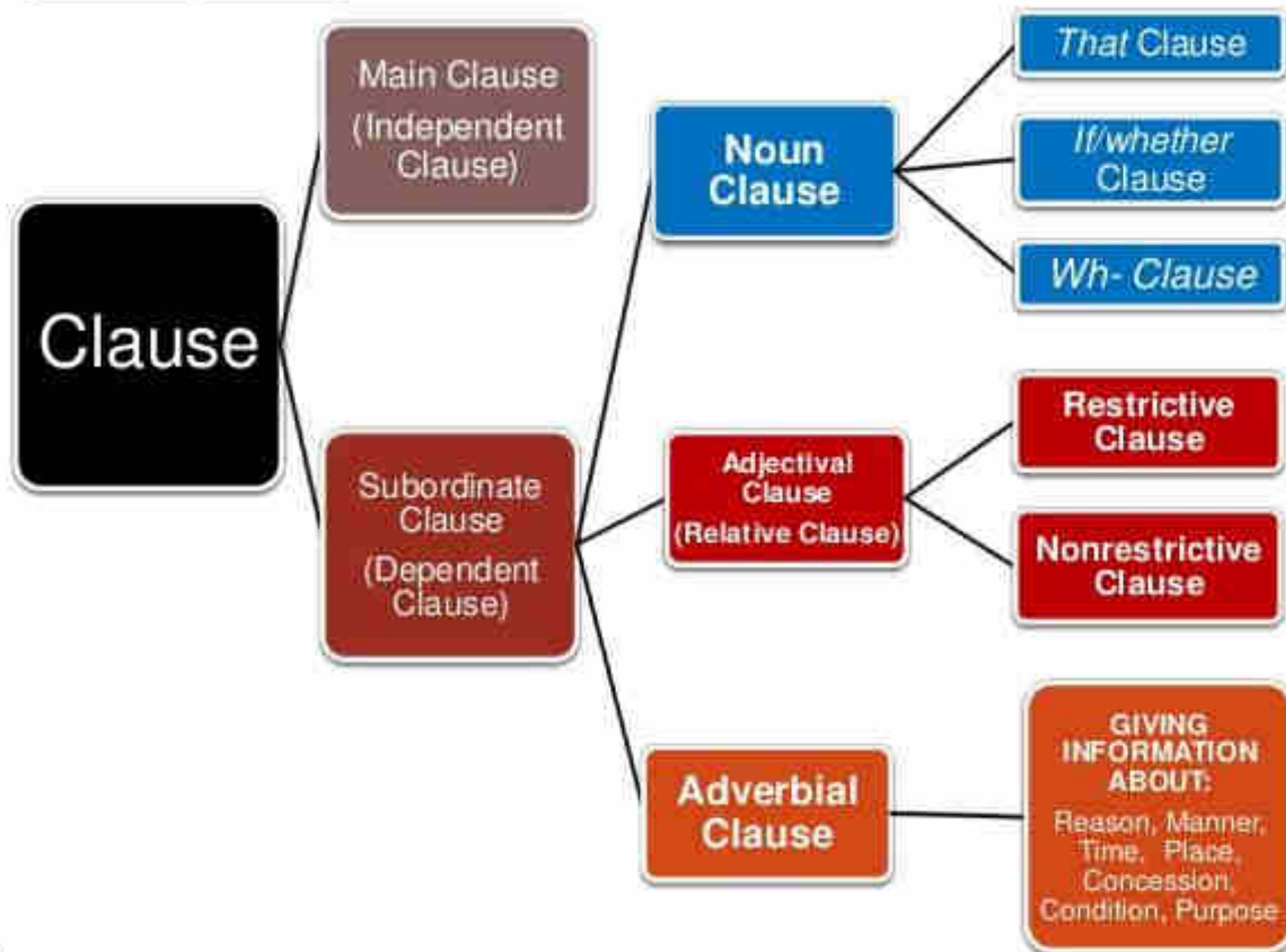
C. ADVERBIAL CLAUSE

- An **adverbial clause** functions like an adverb in giving information about the reason, manner, time, place, concession, condition, or purpose of an action that occurred.
- The name "**adverbial**" suggests that adverbial clauses modify verbs; but they modify whole clauses.

SOME EXAMPLES OF ADVERBIAL CLAUSE:

1. I did this work, because this work is part of my educational project. (*reason*)
2. He ate as if he were starving for months. (*manner*)
3. Before you go, bring me some water. (*time*)
4. Put it where we can see it. (*place*)
5. Even though we treat her kindly, she is suspicious of us. (*concession*)
6. Unless you study hard, you will fail in this exam. (*condition*)
7. We need to eat so that we may live. (*purpose*)

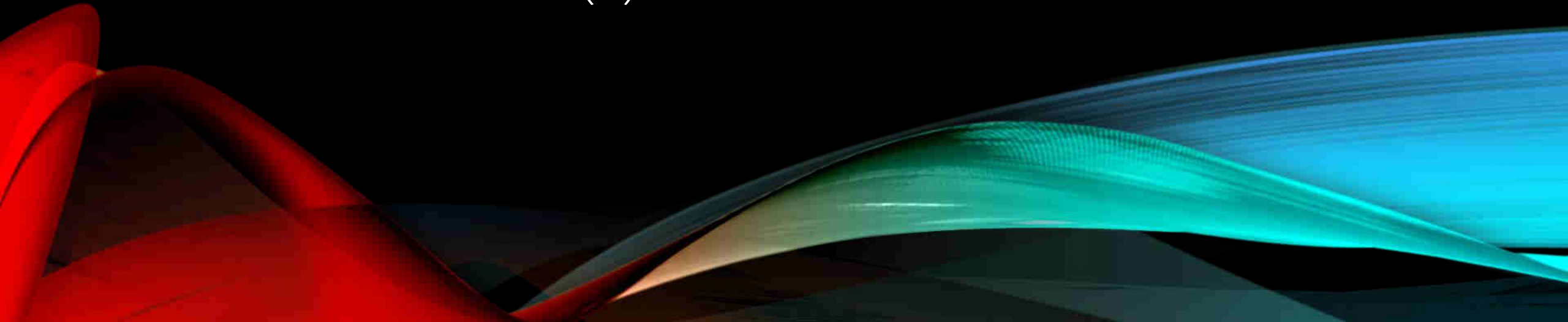
Summary Chart:



IDENTIFY THE RED WORDS ACCORDING TO THEIR CLAUSE
TYPE: "**WHEN I LIVED IN LONDON**, I PLAYED GOLF EVERY
DAY."

(A) DEPENDENT

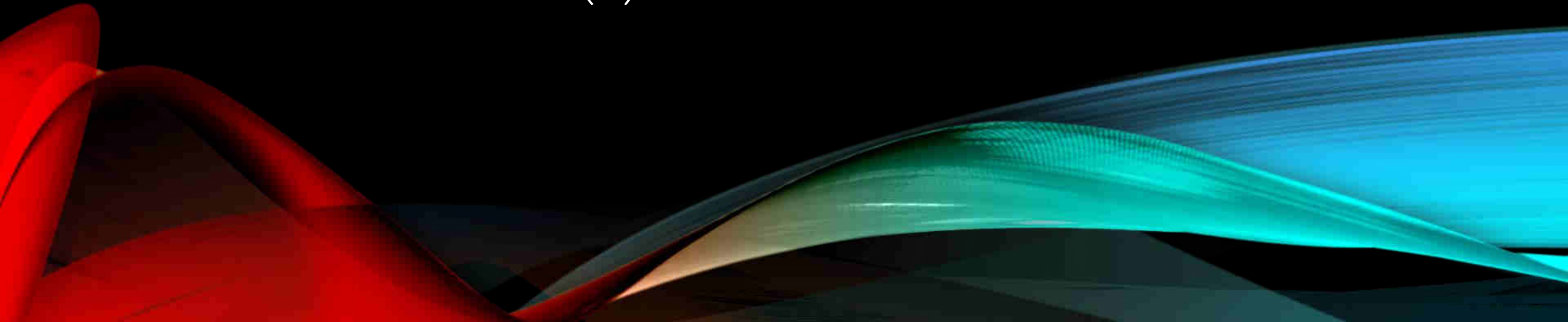
(B) INDEPENDENT



IDENTIFY THE RED WORDS ACCORDING TO THEIR CLAUSE
TYPE: "**WHEN I LIVED IN LONDON**, I PLAYED GOLF EVERY
DAY."

→ (A) DEPENDENT

(B) INDEPENDENT



WHENEVER I DON'T HAVE ANY HOMEWORK, I LIKE TO GO FOR A
BIKE RIDE AFTER SCHOOL.

(A) PHRASE

(B) CLAUSE



WHENEVER I DON'T HAVE ANY HOMEWORK, I LIKE TO GO FOR A
BIKE RIDE AFTER SCHOOL.

(A) PHRASE

→ (B) CLAUSE

SENTENCES ARE ALWAYS CLAUSES, BUT CLAUSES ARE NOT ALWAYS SENTENCES.

(A) BOTH CLAIMS ARE FALSE

(B) BOTH CLAIMS ARE TRUE

(C) THE FIRST CLAIM IS FALSE, THE SECOND IS TRUE

(D) THE FIRST CLAIM IS TRUE, THE SECOND IS FALSE



SENTENCES ARE ALWAYS CLAUSES, BUT CLAUSES ARE NOT ALWAYS SENTENCES.

(A) BOTH CLAIMS ARE FALSE

➡ (B) BOTH CLAIMS ARE TRUE

(C) THE FIRST CLAIM IS FALSE, THE SECOND IS TRUE

(D) THE FIRST CLAIM IS TRUE, THE SECOND IS FALSE

SYNTAX

PART 3

Sentences

Definition:

A **sentence** is a grammatical unit consisting of one or more words that bear minimal syntactic relation to the words that precede or follow it, expresses a thought in the form of a statement, question, instruction, or exclamation, which starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop when written.

-SENTENCE CAN BE CLASSIFIED BASED ON
THE CATEGORIES OF PRAGMATIC ASPECT AND
GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE

Based on the Pragmatic Aspect
(*realistic condition of the usage*),
sentence can be classified into:

1

● **Declarative Sentence**

2

● **Imperative Sentence**

3

● **Interrogative Sentence**

4

● **Exclamatory Sentence**

1. Declarative Sentence

- A **declarative sentence** is a sentence in the form of a statement.
- Examples:
 - I have to go to work.
 - I'll never do that.
 - We are studying linguistics.
 - He took my bicycle.

2. Imperative Sentence

- An **imperative sentence** is a sentence that tells someone to do something, gives advice or instructions, or that expresses a request or command.
- An **imperative sentence** usually have no obvious subject.
- Examples:
 - Go to work!
 - Don't do that!
 - Don't walk on the grass!
 - You should study hard.

3. Interrogative Sentence

- An **interrogative sentence** is a sentence in the form of question, which is used to request information.
- There are two types of interrogative sentence; those which expect the answer '**yes**' or '**no**', and those which begin with the question words '**what**', '**where**', '**which**', '**who**', '**whom**', '**when**', '**why**', '**whose**', or '**how**' that expect the complete answer.

- Examples:

- Do you have to go to work?
- Did you do that?
- Have you got the message?
- Are you OK?
- Is she your girlfriend?

Yes/no questions.

- What are you doing?
- Why did you do that?
- Whose car is that?
- Where is my book?
- How are you?

Wh- questions.

4. Exclamatory Sentence

- An **exclamatory sentence** is a sentence that expresses strong feelings by making an exclamation.
- Examples:
 - I did it!
 - What a fool I was!
 - What a beautiful country!
 - Oh my God!

Based on the Grammatical Structure
(the composition and relation between clauses),
sentence can be classified into:

A

● SIMPLE SENTENCE

B

● COMPOUND SENTENCE

C

● COMPLEX SENTENCE

D

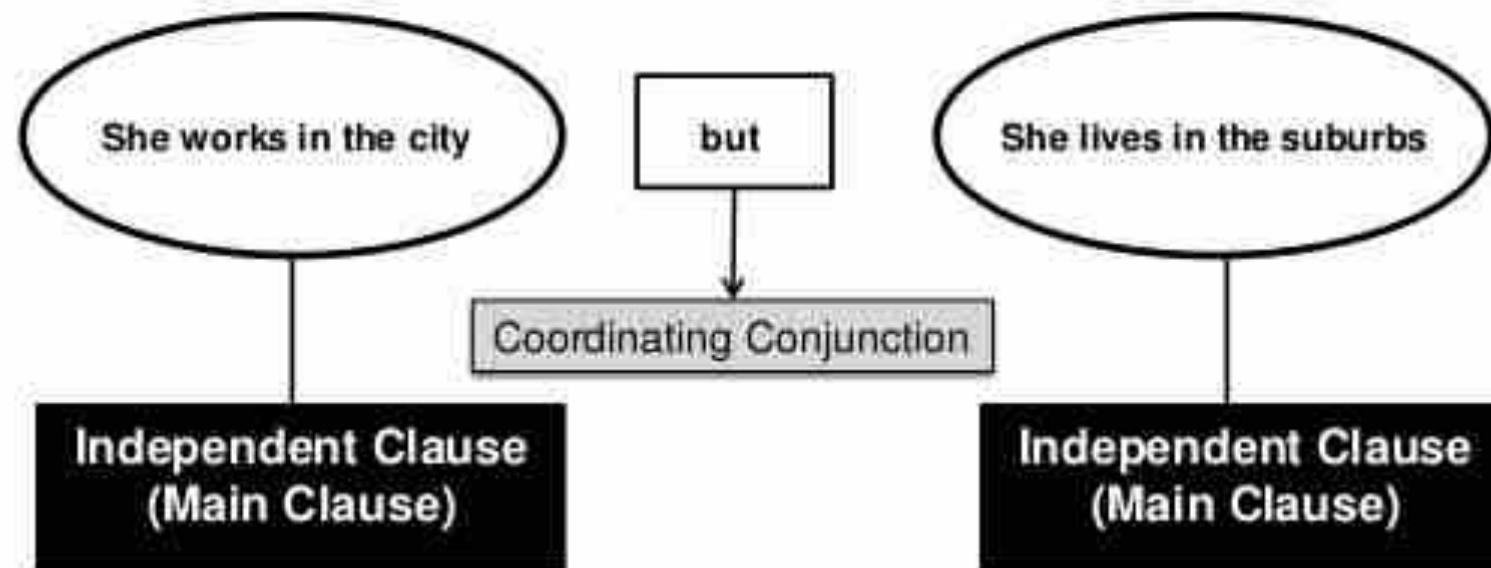
● COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

A. SIMPLE SENTENCE

- A **simple sentence** is a sentence which consists of one independent clause (main clause) with no dependent clause (subordinate clause).
- Examples:
 - I come.
 - The boy cried.
 - Canada is a rich country.
 - The girl ran into her bedroom.
 - Some students like to study in the morning.

B. COMPOUND SENTENCE

- A **compound sentence** is a sentence consists of two or more independent clauses (main clauses) with no dependent clause (subordinate clause); usually linked by the coordinating conjunctions: ***and, but, so, or, either or, neither nor, or then.***



- Other Examples:

1. My friend invited me to a birthday party, but I don't want to go.
2. He ran out and fell over the suitcase.
3. Either the students or the teacher takes a day off every month.
4. He could neither eat nor sleep.
5. Do you want to stay here, or would you like to come with me?
6. She has five children, so she is incredibly busy.
7. She ate breakfast, then went to school.

C. COMPLEX SENTENCE

- A **complex sentence** is a sentence consists of one independent clause (main clause) and at least one dependent clause (subordinate clause), and often formed by putting the subordinating conjunctions, such as: *as, as if, before, after, because, although, while, when, whenever, during, as soon as, as long as, since, until, unless, where, wherever, etc.*
- Examples:
 - John cannot set up his computer because the setting is complicated.
 - She became queen when her father died, because she was the eldest child.

D. COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

- A **compound-complex sentence** is a sentence consists of two or more independent clauses (main clauses) and at least one dependent (subordinate clause).

Example:

- *Although she worked hard to gain recognition, many people did not know who she was, and her friends did not even appreciate her work.*

IN WHICH SENTENCE DO THE DOTS REPLACE A NOUN ?

(A) THEY CAN ... THEM

(B) THEY CAN ...

(C) HE HAS NO ...

IN WHICH SENTENCE DO THE DOTS REPLACE A NOUN ?

(A) THEY CAN ... THEM

(B) THEY CAN ...

→ (C) HE HAS NO ...

CLASSIFY THE 'SENTENCE' SHOWN IN RED: "IT IS NO SURPRISE
THAT SHE IS SO UNHEALTHY, SHE'S BEEN SMOKING SINCE SHE WAS
55 YEARS OLD."

(A) RUN-ON

(B) CORRECT

(C) FRAGMENT

(D) RAMBLING

CLASSIFY THE 'SENTENCE' SHOWN IN RED: "IT IS NO SURPRISE
THAT SHE IS SO UNHEALTHY, SHE'S BEEN SMOKING SINCE SHE WAS
55 YEARS OLD."

→ (A) RUN-ON

(B) CORRECT

(C) FRAGMENT

(D) RAMBLING

IDENTIFY THIS SENTENCE ACCORDING TO ITS TYPE: "DO YOU WANT TO GO SWIMMING TOMORROW, OR WOULD YOU PREFER TO PLAY TENNIS?"

(A) COMPOUND

(B) COMPOUND-COMPLEX

(C) SIMPLE

(D) COMPLEX

IDENTIFY THIS SENTENCE ACCORDING TO ITS TYPE: "DO YOU WANT TO GO SWIMMING TOMORROW, OR WOULD YOU PREFER TO PLAY TENNIS?"

→ (A) COMPOUND

(B) COMPOUND-COMPLEX

(C) SIMPLE

(D) COMPLEX

By definition a sentence is the largest linguistic unit with grammatical structure.

(A) True

(B) False

By definition a sentence is the largest linguistic unit with grammatical structure.

→ (A) True

(B) False

NOTE: THE GRAMMATICAL DEFINITION OF THE SENTENCE IS THE LARGEST UNIT TO WHICH SYNTACTIC RULES CAN APPLY

REFERENCES

- [HTTP://WWW.PREZ.COM](http://www.prez.com)
- [HTTP://WWW.SLIDESHARE.COM](http://www.slideshare.com)
- [HTTP://WWW.ENGLISH.STACKEXCHANGE.COM](http://www.english.stackexchange.com)
- [HTTP://WWW.SHOFTSCHOOLS.COM](http://www.shoftschools.com)
- [HTTPS://WEB.STANFORD.EDU/~LAURK/PUBLICATIONS/ARCHVE/QUESTIONS.PDF](https://web.stanford.edu/~laurk/publications/archve/questions.pdf)
- A SHORT OVERVIEW OF SYNTAX
- [HTTP://WWW.LEL.ED.AC.UK/GRAMMAR/OVERVIEW.HTML](http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/grammar/overview.html)
- [HTTP://WWW.LING.UPENN.EDU/~BEATRICE/SYN TAX-TEXTBOOK/CH11.HTML](http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~beatrice/syntax-textbook/ch11.html)
- AN INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE - VICTORIA FROMKIN, ROBERT RODMAN, NINA HYAMS
- [HTTP://PANDORA.CBA.UWU.EDU/VAJDA/LING201/TEST1MATERIALS/SYN TAX.HTM](http://pandora.cba.uwu.edu/vajda/ling201/test1materials/syntax.htm)