

infinitive clauses

- *to-infinitive*: *He didn't want to go there by car.*
- *bare infinitive*: *Rather than go there by car, I'd prefer to take the train.*

The three types differ considerably with respect to the grammatical roles they can play. Grammatically the most versatile are infinitive and *-ing* clauses. Non-finite clauses are used as a means of syntactic reduction as they have neither tense, number and person markers, and usually nor subject and subordinating conjunction.

(When I was) walking in the park, I heard a strange noise.
(Since /Because/ As she was) accompanied by her parents, the child felt safe.

In a **VERBLESS clause** there is *no verb* element and often also *no subject*. Verbless clauses are regarded as clauses because they function in ways which make them equivalent to finite and non-finite clauses, and because it is possible to recover the missing form of the verb *be* and the *subject* from the context. Verbless clauses are limited to the two clause types SVC and SVA, with or without subordinator.

Though eighty this year (Though she is eighty), my grandmother goes for a walk every day.
He was listening to the story, his feet on the table. (his feet were on the table)

In general, *finite clauses* can be both *independent (main)* and *dependent (subordinate)*, but *non-finite* and *verbless clauses* can only be *dependent*.

4.3 CLAUSES CLASSIFIED BY THEIR FUNCTION (IN THE SENTENCE)

Subordinate clauses have three main sets of functions within the sentence:

NOMINAL clauses have a similar range of functions as *noun phrases* do. They may function as: *subject, direct object, subject complement, appositive, adjective complement, prepositional complement.*

I didn't ask her what she had done with the money. (Od)

RELATIVE (Adjective) clauses work like multi-word adjectives, and function as restrictive or non-restrictive post-modifiers of noun phrases in independent clauses.

His uncle, who is already 82, likes to play golf.

ADVERBIAL clauses have the same function as the adverbial element in a sentence or clause. They provide information about what is going on in the independent (main) clause. Adverbial clauses modify the action, event, or state expressed by the verb phrase in the independent clause.

Susan won't join us because she is too busy with her homework.

usually used for asking someone to do something, thus it functions as a request. The imperative structure "Have another cake." does not really function as an order, but as an offer.

4.4.1 PUNCTUATION OF INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

In spoken language the voice indicates the pauses and the stops, but in written language punctuation does the work. It would be very difficult to read English without full stops (periods) or commas. Every complete sentence requires a mark of punctuation at the end, and sometimes inside the sentence, too so that it will be clear and easier to read.

At the end of each sentence there should be a *punctuation mark*. The great majority of sentences are statements, requiring a **full stop** (.). Direct questions are followed by a **question mark** (?), and emphatic or exclamatory statements are ended with an **exclamation mark** (!). An imperative sentence is followed by either a full stop or an exclamation mark. Full stops and question marks also have several conventional uses in addition to their function as end stops.

Full stops are the most common end stops; they mark *the end of all sentences* that are not direct questions or exclamations.

Madagascar is an island off south-east Africa.

She's just arrived from New York.

"Oh."

Full stops are used also after *indirect questions*. An indirect question is really a statement about a question and is never followed by a question mark.

He didn't remember where Maria had put the certificate.

(A direct question would be *Where did she put the certificate?*)

They wanted to know what I had been doing since I graduated.

A **Question mark** is used after a sentence expressing a *direct question*:

Have you finished? Do you like red vine?

What's the time? Really?

When a sentence begins with a statement but ends with a question, the ending determines the punctuation:

Perhaps this explanation is poor, but is there a better one?

An **Exclamation mark** is used after *exclamations*, which can be expressed in a range of structures (special exclamative structures, clauses, phrases, other non-clausal forms) and statements that are genuinely exclamatory:

What an excellent student he is!

Look at that! It's great!

How old has she grown!

Wow!

Oh, that's a shame!

No, no, no!

There is seldom a need for exclamation marks unless you are writing dialogue. Don't use an exclamation mark unless the statement is genuinely emphatic; it will not lend weight to a simple statement of fact.

EXERCISES 30-41

30. Identify by underlining the independent clauses in the following sentences.

1. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
2. She recommended that we stay till Friday.
3. I'm taking reading lessons this semester because I failed the last year's test.
4. Buy today; save tomorrow.
5. Tom is saving money so that he'll have enough for a new laptop.
6. Since Bob overslept, he took a taxi to school.
7. Ask me no questions; tell me no lies, unless I would enjoy hearing them.
8. When he blushed, you couldn't see his freckles.
9. The story that I read this morning was not as exciting as I had expected.
10. Helen was rather tired, yet she didn't take the bus but walked more than 5 miles.
11. Closing the factory means putting people out of work.
12. After last night's gales, some roads are blocked by fallen trees.

31. Identify by underlining the finite dependent clauses (if any) within the following sentences.

1. Everything that I heard about it was a lie.
2. He followed the instructions even though they didn't make sense.
3. I don't know whether she has told you that her sister is pregnant.
4. Either one is honest, or one is dishonest.
5. George didn't come to the meeting since no one had invited him.
6. When they're going to get married is a secret.
7. She hasn't told me how to do it.
8. Will your new job involve being away from home a lot?
9. If you really want to be a ballet dancer, why don't you take extra lessons?
10. As soon as he leaves, I'll start cleaning the room.
11. After a long flight over the ocean, they were very tired.
12. It is a well known fact that smoking can cause cancer.
13. Harry couldn't hear what the speaker was saying, as he was sitting at the back.
14. Offer whatever amount is necessary to insure their cooperation.
15. What you think and what you do is none of my business.

32. Find the non-finite and verbless clauses in the following sentences and replace them by finite clauses.

Example: Driving his car very fast and carelessly, John ended up in a ditch.

As/Since John was driving....., he ended up in a ditch.

1. Hearing a noise, Mr. Brown opened the window to see where it was coming from.
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2. Not being able to finish it in time, he asked his friend for help.

3. The old building, now in ruins, has to be pulled down.

4. Our country is expecting the coldest winter for years, the temperature having dropped below -15 degrees.

5. I couldn't figure out the message written in foreign language.

6. He turned the radio off not to disturb the sleeping baby.

7. While watching the news on TV, he heard someone to enter the room.

8. There are a lot of questions to be answered.

9. Having been told how long the trip would be, Eve refused to go.

10. Each student wanting to join the school sports club has to fill in a special form.

33. Identify the elements that join or introduce the clauses in the following sentences. Then, identify the types of clauses (independent/dependent) in the sentences.

1. Some people say / **that** winning isn't everything, / **but** losing isn't anything.
independent *dependent* *independent*
2. Before I can make a decision, the candidates who seek the job must take a test.
3. Despite being constantly interrupted, she managed to finish her work on time.
4. I didn't know that they wanted to stay overnight.
5. If you really want to apply for this post, why don't you fill in the application form?
6. Tom was making faces during the lecture, which was really foolish.
7. I'm sorry now that I didn't tell you the truth.
8. My assistant Brenda will keep in touch with you; then you'll know where I am.
9. Provided that I get a good job, I'm going to save enough money to get my own flat.
10. Though Charles was a hard worker, I wondered how he was able to finish it on time.
11. What Rachel really enjoys is taking long walks in the evening.
12. It makes me really angry that she hasn't kept her promise.

34. Circle the subject and underline the verb of each independent clause in the following sentences.

1. William has been working here for more than eight years.
2. How could she be guilty with so much evidence pointing to his innocence?
3. He was harmless at the baseline; however, he was dangerous at the net.
4. It was obvious that she was less skilled than her opponent.
5. At the party, they sang, danced, and played cards.
6. Communicating involves being both a good speaker and a good listener.
7. Everybody who wants to play the role of the king, raise his hand.
8. Some say that Harry is right; others say that he is not.
9. What she was saying was not easy to listen to.
10. Even though I don't like red meat very much, I eat it when I am invited for dinner.
11. Before you decide what to do, you should consult it with your boss.
12. She has put on some weight, yet she continues eating sweets.
13. Tell me where I should put the new chairs.
14. I hope that she'll call me as soon as they arrive.
15. You mustn't leave the room unless you are told.

35. Instructions as for 33

1. After they finished skiing, they compared notes on the runs which they had made.
2. Because of the latest trend in health and exercise, health clubs are opening everywhere.
3. My favourite time to exercise is in the morning after getting up and before eating breakfast, yet sometimes I must hurry to catch the morning train.
4. A leading expert in the field of nutrition has stated that calories play more important role in weight gain than anything else.
5. Jill didn't want to go to the car show, but her husband insisted that she come with him.
6. David wanted to go out, but Joel persuaded him to stay at home.
7. I go to the health club every day to work out although it is very often an effort to get myself there.
8. Alicia likes any kind of exercise; however, she has never tried windsurfing or kayaking on the ocean.
9. Swimming and cycling are her favourite ways to exercise.
10. My friend saw the accident which was in front of our school; therefore, the police asked him how it had happened.
11. You shouldn't eat heavy meal and then go to bed immediately afterwards.
12. Because John has a heart problem, he is on a low-cholesterol diet.
13. Had I known he would come, I wouldn't have left so early.
14. Peter's ankle began to hurt, so his father made a doctor's appointment to him.
15. Ask hundreds of people what they will be doing on a certain day in August next year, or the year after, and there will be only one reply.

36. Identify by underlining the dependent clauses (NC) which act as the SUBJECTS, direct OBJECTS, APPOSITIVES, or COMPLEMENTS of linking verbs.

1. I don't think that Tom will win the match. ___O___
2. What I do in my free time is my business. _____
3. She asked me whether I would help her if she needed. _____
4. The idea that we should travel by car is ridiculous. _____
5. The agency said the health of recreational users could also be at risk. _____
6. The question is whether it is true or not. _____
7. I wondered if there was a connection between them. _____
8. I wasn't sure why she should do it. _____
9. My idea, how I'll do it, turned out unrealistic. _____
10. What occurred simultaneously or in quick succession need to be separated out. _____
11. Love is what saves a poor wretch like Aileen. _____
12. Frank never gives clear definition of what he means by abduction. _____
13. It is beautiful what's out there. _____
14. I'm not interested in what they are talking about. _____
15. That they knew what George wanted to say didn't surprise me. _____

37. Identify by underlining the dependent clauses which MODIFY NOUNS (Relative clauses-RC) in the following sentences and circle the heads of NPs that are modified by them.

1. A need a friend who can help me with this burden.
2. There are always some questions that must be answered.
3. Blair, who had been Leader of the Opposition for more than a year, made a silly mistake.
4. He looked wrecked like a dog which will be punished.
5. Here is the article about which I've heard some critical remarks.
6. Studies show that children look up to such personalities of fashion world as Cindy Crawford, Naomi Campbell, and Kate Moss, all of whom are extremely thin.
7. There would doubtless be several people whom he knew.
8. He wanted to do something that would surprise his girlfriend.
9. It wasn't a sort of place you could afford to do things casually.
10. I just don't understand the reason why Jonathan left her.
11. We have a lot of things that we must talk about.
12. Mr Davis had been sitting on an email he had received anonymously on March 8.
13. Mandy couldn't find anyone whom she would trust.
14. Ms Bennett, a former head of science whose BBC production credits include 'Walking with Dinosaurs', has recently spent some days in New York.
15. It appeared to be the best time when we should come up with something new.

11. The problem for Fodor's argument is how the mind worked a few hundred years ago.
12. No matter what they do, it'll be something that's appropriate to them.
13. This is the first year we've run it with this component of fiction.
14. I don't know what's coming, because I can't read the future.
15. I'm sure Andrew will love me if he realizes what I had to sacrifice so that he could study abroad at a university he'd longed for.

40. Identify the clause patterns that the following sentences belong to as SV, SVA, SVO, SVC, SVOO, SVOC or SVOA.

1. Since I last saw him, Tom has grown older. A(subclause)SVC
2. To be in excellent physical condition is what Grace has always strived for. _____
3. I can't say that it was the best performance I've ever seen. _____
4. In spite of the loud noise I could hear what he was saying. _____
5. Something I don't understand is her strange behaviour. _____
6. The film star's press-agent said that his client was under public pressure. _____
7. Patrick was staring at Mr. Gee as if he had never seen him before. _____
8. I don't know whether he will do it, but Mark is sure he will. _____
9. As he had forgotten to close the window, it was cold when they returned. _____
10. I haven't felt so bad since the time I had the Asian flu. _____

41. Instructions as for 39

1. Even though you cannot play tennis well, we can still have good time hitting the ball.

2. In that dress you look gorgeous! _____
3. Uncle Ben picked them up at the airport. _____
4. That she didn't speak English surprised everyone who attended the meeting. _____
5. In our organization we are all equals; no one considers him/herself to be superior to anyone else. _____
6. Wherever you hide, I'll find you and make you tell me the truth. _____
7. She asked me if I could help her when she had troubles with her child. _____
8. I have a goal which I hope to achieve, and when I achieve it, I'll be happy. _____
9. If we do nothing about this, there will soon be nothing left that we can preserve.

10. We hope that there will be enough snow in the mountains during our holidays. _____