

Aula 2

UNDERSTANDING DEPENDENT CLAUSES

META

Recognize and understand dependent clauses in order to improve knowledge about sentence structure.

OBJETIVOS

At the end of this class, it is expected that the students: At the end of this class, it is expected that the students:

- Recognize the difference between independent and dependent clauses;
- Understand sentence structure related to dependent clauses;
- Make correct use of dependent clauses.

PRERREQUISITOS

Familiaridade com a problemática do conceito de Literatura;
O contexto sócio-histórico da formação étnica e cultural dos grupos sociais que formavam o período anglo-saxônico.

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INTRODUCTION



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Welcome to class 02! We will be working now with dependent clauses. This is a great opportunity for you to review this grammar topic that you have certainly studied at some point in school in your Portuguese classes. Yes! The idea and rules are basically the same. Even though our focus is not on independent clauses, let us start by a brief review of this topic. Check the examples below:

Martha was very happy.

She passed her driving test.

The examples above are of independent clauses because they can stand alone, without the help of other clauses to make meaning. They contain all the information that is needed for their comprehension. Martha was very happy. She passed her driving test. Nothing is missing in both sentences. The meaning is complete. We can put them together, though, since they are related. We can do that with the help of proper punctuation. In this case, by using a semicolon (;):

Martha was very happy; she passed her driving test.

Let's analyze the structure of the first independent clause. It presents a subject (Martha) and a state of mind (was very happy). The second independent clause also presents a subject (She) and a predicate or an action (passed her driving test). As you can see, both clauses present complete thoughts. If you want to practice more about this topic, you can visit: <http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-independent-clauses.html>.

UNDERSTANDING DEPENDENT CLAUSES

Even though dependent clauses also present a subject and a verb, they cannot stand by themselves because they do not carry/express a complete thought. They need the help of other clauses to make sense. Observe the following example:

Because I had a headache.

As you could see, some information is missing here. This sentence does not carry all the meaning that is necessary for us to understand what was going on. It happens because it is a fragment of a sentence. However, if we add some information to it, then it will make sense:



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Because I had a headache, I couldn't finish the report yesterday.

See? Now it does make sense. The person was not able to finish the report because he had a headache. Now, how about analyzing other examples of dependent clauses to continue the explanation of this important topic? Pay attention to the words that were used to start each of the clauses.

Whenever you come to visit me

Since Paulo doesn't have enough money

When your sister arrives

Unless the store has the right color

Can you make meaning out of what is being said above? Of course not, because something is missing. Watch what happens now:

Whenever you come to visit me, please give me a call.

Since Paulo doesn't have enough money, he won't travel with us.

When your sister arrives, take her to the living room.

Unless the store has the right color, I won't buy the dress.

What has just happened? We added an independent clause to each of the examples so they made sense. Observe that to join the clauses, we used a comma (,) between them. Remember I told you to pay attention to the words that were used to start each of the dependent clauses? They help us recognize a dependent clause. They are called marker words and conjunctions. Here are some examples:

And	Because	Whenever	Unless
But	Before	Wherever	Whose
Nor	Since	Though	After
Yet	In order to	Even though	While
Although	While	Even if	Who/Whom

Observe that a dependent clause can also appear in the middle of an independent clause:

The city where I was born is affected negatively due to the lack of rain.

The teacher, whom I talked to yesterday, is taking over the position of school director.

Now, let's learn something else about Adjective and Noun dependent clauses.

ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

Adjective clauses are dependent clauses that modify nouns. They usually begin with a relative pronoun and sometimes they begin with a subordinating conjunction. Read the information below and pay attention to the clauses that are underlined.



<http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/images/> Photo by nenetus. Published on 18 September 2015
Stock photo - Image ID: 100361626. Last access on May 1th, 2016.)

When the leaves turn color and fall, we know it is autumn in the US.

Considering the previous explanations, this is an example of dependent clauses. As you can notice, they do not carry complete thoughts and need the help of an independent clause to make sense. Something important to observe here is that the information in these dependent clauses modify the nouns they relate to.

I contacted the industry which is located in Italy.

Paulo, whom we met after the movie, is now dating my friend Ana.

I love writers whose writing is always intriguing.

This is the school where I went to elementary school.

People who live by the ocean are happy.

Do you want to get more practice about this subject? You can find a list adapted of dependent clauses at: <http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-dependent-clauses.html>

NOUN CLAUSES

Those are dependent clauses that act as a noun, naming a person, thing, idea or place. They can be a subject, a subject complement, an appositive or an object. Below are some important explanations about noun clauses adapted from the webpage Your Dictionary, available on <http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-dependent-clauses.html>. Last access on May 1st, 2016.

They can act as the subject of a verb as presented below:

What Miriam said surprised her mother. (What surprised the mother?)

What my brother wrote made me cry of happiness. (What made me cry?)

What the manager of the store did was rude. (What was rude?)



<http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/> Photo by Yongkiet. Published on 26 March 2016 Stock photo - Image ID: 100403568. Last access on May 15th, 2016.)

Here is an example of a paragraph with problems caused by the wrong use of dependent clauses. Read it and try to find where the thoughts are not completed because the information is presented through fragments. (Activity adapted from: THURMAN, S. **Everything Grammar and Style Book**: all the rules you need to know to master great writing. MA/USA: F+W Publications, Inc., 2002.)

The lone woman trudged up the muddy riverbank. Determined that she would make the best of a bad situation. Because of her family's recent run of bad luck. She knew that she had to contribute to the family's finances. That's why she had accepted a teaching position. In this town that was new to her. Impatiently waiting for someone to show her where she was to live. She surveyed the streets and rundown buildings of the little village. Little did she know the problems that she would face in the "wilderness", as she had mentally thought of her new home. First, the schoolhouse was not ready. Even though she had written that she wanted to begin classes on the 24th. The day after her arrival.

Were you able to identify the fragments? Let's see if your answers were the following:

Determined that she would make the best of a bad situation.

Because of her family's recent run of bad luck.

In this town that was new to her.

Impatiently waiting for someone to show her where she was to live.

Even though she had written that she wanted to begin classes on the 24th.

The day after her arrival.

Well, how can we fix this paragraph? By connecting these dependent clauses to independent ones. We've already provided some examples when introducing dependent and independent clauses. You can do that by connecting those fragments to what is being said before or after them. Pay attention to the correct use of punctuation (in this case, commas (,) were used) and/or the correct position of the clauses in the sentence:

Determined that she would make the best of a bad situation.

The lone woman trudged up the muddy riverbank, determined that she would make the best of a bad situation.

Much better, right? The problem is solved. Another way to correct the problem is to change the position of the clauses: Determined that she would make the best of a bad situation, the lone woman trudged up the muddy riverbank.

Would you like to see another way to fix the problem? We can do that by putting the fragment in the middle of the sentence: The lone woman, determined that she would make the best of a bad situation, trudged up the muddy riverbank. Let's keep on helping correct the problems in the paragraph!

Because of her family's recent run of bad luck.

Because of her family's recent run of bad luck, she knew that she had to contribute to the family's finance. (Use of a comma)

She knew that she had to contribute to the family's finance because of her family's recent run of bad luck (No comma).

Try to fix the other parts of the paragraph, and check your answers with your teachers and classmates.



ACTIVITY

1. Mark the correct answer:

- a) () A dependent clause has a subject but not necessarily a verb.
- b) () A dependent clause cannot stand by itself even though it has a verb and a subject.
- c) () A dependent clause carries meaning in itself without the help of another clause.
- d) () A dependent clause must be connected to other dependent clauses to produce meaning.

2. Read the sentences below and mark if the clauses written in CAPITAL LETTERS are independent (I) or dependent (D) clauses:

- a) () If I get a break from work, I WILL TRAVEL WITH MY FAMILY.
- b) () BECAUSE I LOVE MUSIC, I want to learn how to play the guitar.
- c) () I would like to leave now UNLESS YOU WANNA SEE THE END OF THE PRESENTATION.
- d) () WHEN SHE GOT HERE, we had already started eating dinner.
- e) () SHE SAID THE STORE WOULD OPEN AT 8 A.M. despite the local holiday.

COMMENTS ON THE ACTIVITY

Go over the explanations about the difference between independent and dependent clauses to answer these exercises. Also, go back to the chart with common marker words and conjunctions. Share your answers and doubts with your teachers and classmates.



SUMMARY

In this class, we've introduced and worked with an important issue as for the practice of writing good texts: the relationship between dependent and independent clauses. As you could observe, you should avoid the use

of fragments in a sentence because the message needs to make sense to the reader. Therefore, we use sentences with complete thoughts. The correct use of dependent clauses helps us produce great texts with clear ideas. For such, we also need to make good use of punctuation, which we will see more about in class 05.



SELF-EVALUATION

Did I increase my knowledge related to Sentence Structure?
Can I make correct use of dependent clauses?
Has my knowledge of the English language improved considering the studies and practices of previous semesters?



NEXT CLASS

Next class, the focus of your studies will be on Maintaining Subject/Verb Agreement. See you then!

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