

The complex sentence

Complex sentence

- consists of one matrix and at least one dependent clause
- at least one sentence element must be expressed by a clause
- *He came here when he finished his work.*

Simple sentence

- consists of one clause only
- all sentence elements are expressed by phrases
- *He came here after work.*

Compound sentence

- consists of two matrix clauses and any number of dependent clauses
- *He finished his work and came here.*
- *He finished his work and came here when I asked him to.*

Subordination

- A subordinate clause may function as a sentence element within a sentence:

Example:

I don't know which boy is your best friend. (object)

- A subordinate clause may function as a constituent of a phrase, e.g. a relative clause as a postmodifier within a noun phrase:

Example:

The boy (whom/that) we met yesterday is your best friend. (modifier)

Three structural classes of dependent clauses (forms):

- **finite** (*I'll come when I finish my work.*)
- **non-finite** (*I'll come after finishing my work.*)
- **verbless** (*I'll come as soon as possible.*)

Finite clauses

- contain a finite verb form
- *I'll come when I finish my work*

Non-finite clauses

- are means of syntactic compression
- lack tense markers
- do not use modal auxiliaries
- the auxiliary *to have* expresses anteriority in time

Non-finite clauses 1

- **to-infinitive clauses**

a/ without S:

It is necessary to tell everybody.

b/ with S:

It is necessary for me to tell everybody.

- **bare infinitive clauses**

a/ without S

All I did was finish the work.

b/ with S

Rather than you finish the work, I'd prefer to finish it myself.

Non-finite clauses 2

- **-ing participle clauses**

a/ without S:

Opening the window, Peter saw Mary's cat.

b/ with S:

Mary having opened the door, Peter saw her cat.

- **-ed participle clauses**

a/ without S

Covered with confusion, they left in a hurry.

b/ with S

The discussion completed, they left in a hurry.

Verbless clauses

- do not contain any verb form at all
- it is possible to postulate a missing form of the verb *to be*
- it is possible to recover the S
- Examples:

Whether right or wrong, he answers last.

Whether **he is** right or wrong, he answers last.

Formal indicators of subordination

- subordinators
- marginal subordinators
- other indicators of subordination

Subordinators/subordinating conjunctions

- **single-word subordinators** (*before, because, after, although, as, since, if, though, unless, till, once, that, until, when, where, while*)
- **multi-word subordinators** (a/ **ending with that**: *in order that, in the event that*; or b/ **ending with as**: *as far as, as soon as, as long as*; others: *as if/though, in case*)
- **correlative subordinators** (*so/such ... that, whether/if ... or, although ... nevertheless, if ... then, because ... therefore, the ... the*)

Marginal subordinators

- **a subordinator and a following/preceding adverb:**
e.g. *even if, if only*;
- **temporal noun phrases:** e.g. *the moment (that), every time (that)*;
- **prepositional phrases:** e.g. *because of the fact that, in spite of the fact that* (be careful); e.g. Because of the fact that *he was busy, he didn't come at all.*

Other indicators of subordination

- *wh*-elements in subordinate interrogative clauses and subordinate exclamative clauses, *wh*-elements in *wh*-relative clauses, and in conditional-concessive clauses;
- the relative pronoun *that* in restrictive relative clauses;
- subject-operator inversion, esp. in conditional clauses, typically used in literary or elevated style; operators permitting inversion are *had*, *were*, *should*;

Examples of other indicators of subordination

- *wh*-elements in subordinate interrogative clause:
I can't imagine what they want.
- *wh*-elements in *wh*-relative clause:
I took what they offered me.
- restrictive relative clause:
Where is the book that I gave you yesterday?
- subject-operator inversion:
Were she here, she would help us immediately.

Three types of subordinate clauses without any clear indicator of subordination

- **nominal *that*-clauses**,
e.g. *I suppose (that) he can use your phone.*
- **zero relative clauses**,
e.g. *I've lost the book (that) you sent me.*
- **comment clauses** have no overt marker of subordination, but they lack an obligatory complementation of the verb,
e.g. *He has no money, I suppose.*

Direct and indirect speech

- **Direct speech** presents the exact words that someone has uttered in speech or writing.
- **Indirect speech** conveys a report of what has been said or written, but does so in the words of a subsequent reporter.

Examples of direct and indirect speech:

- **Direct speech:**

David said to me after the meeting, 'In my opinion, the arguments in favour of radical changes in the curriculum are not convincing.'

- **Indirect speech:**

David said to me after the meeting that in his opinion the arguments in favour of radical changes in the curriculum were not convincing.

All main discourse types can be converted into indirect speech

- **indirect statements:**

John promised 'I will be ready soon.'

John promised that he would be ready soon.

- **indirect questions:**

John asked 'Are you ready yet?' (yes/no question)

John asked whether I was ready yet.

- **indirect exclamations:**

'What a brave boy you are!' Mary told him.

Mary told him what a brave boy he was.

- **indirect directives:**

'Tidy up the room at once,' I said to Tom.

I told Tom to tidy up the room.

Free indirect speech

- is used to report the stream of thought, especially in fiction;
- is basically a form of indirect speech, but the potentialities of direct-speech sentence structure are retained: **the presence of vocatives, tag questions, direct questions and exclamations, interjections;**
- only the **backshift of the verb**, together with the equivalent **shifts in personal pronouns, demonstratives, and time and space references**, signals the fact that the words are being reported, rather than being in direct speech;

Example of free indirect speech

So that was their plan, was it? He well knew their tricks, and would show them a thing or two before he was finished. Thank goodness he had been alerted, and that there were still a few honest people in the world!

Free direct speech

- used **in fiction** to represent a person's stream of thought;
- is basically a **form of direct speech**, but it is **merged with the narration** without any overt indication by a reporting clause of a switch to speech;
- is distinguished from the past time-reference of the narration by its **use of unshifted forms**;

Example of free direct speech

*I sat on the grass staring at the passers-by.
Everybody seemed in a hurry. Why didn't I
stay at home?*

Transferred negation

- typical of **informal style**;
- the **transfer of the negative from a subordinate clause**, where it belongs semantically, **to the matrix clause**;
- Example: *I don't think it's a good idea.* (used instead of *I think it isn't a good idea.*)
- the matrix **verbs that allow transferred negation** convey **notions of opinion** (e.g. *to believe, think, expect, imagine, suppose*) or **perception** (e.g. *appear, seem, feel as if, look as if, sound as if*)
- Example: *I don't believe I've met you before.* (used instead of *I believe I haven't met you before.*)