

8

COMPLEX SENTENCE

ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

After studying through this chapter, you are expected to be able to write complex sentences with adjective clauses.

In the previous chapter, we learned to construct a compound sentence—a sentence which is made up of two independent clauses joined by either a coordinate conjunction or a conjunctive adverb. In this chapter, as well as in the next two chapters, we are going to learn to construct a complex sentence. A complex sentence is a sentence which consists of at least two clauses—one independent (or main) clause and one dependent (or subordinate) clause. The main clause can somehow stand alone as a separate sentence, while the subordinate clause can not because it is only a part of the main clause. There are three types of dependent clauses based on their functions in the main clause: adjective clause, noun clause, and adverb clause.

An adjective clause is a subordinate clause which functions as an adjective in the main clause. In other words, an adjective clause modifies a noun or noun phrase which is part of the main clause. Let us study the following sentences.

No	Sentence
1	I have a book .
2	I have a <i>red</i> book .
3	I have a book <i>about sharks</i> .
4	I have a book <i>which describes the life cycle of sharks</i> .
5	The man was reading a book.
6	The <i>old</i> man was reading a book.
7	The man <i>in the car</i> was reading a book.
8	The man <i>who sat in the front seat of the car</i> was reading a book.

In Sentence 1, “a book” functions as an object of the verb “have.” In Sentence 2, the word “book” is modified by an adjective—“red.” In Sentence 3, the word “book” is modified by a preposition phrase—“about sharks.” In Sentence 4, the word “book” is modified by a clause, an adjective clause—“which describes the life cycle of sharks.” Now, can you identify the adjective that modifies the noun “man” in Sentence 6? In Sentence 7? In Sentence 8? Yes, you are right. In Sentence 6 the adjective is the word “old,” in Sentence 7 the adjective is the preposition phrase “in

the car,” and in Sentence 8 the adjective is the clause “who sat in the front seat of the car.” All this explanation is intended to show how an adjective clause is actually a part of a main clause and how it has a function to modify a noun or noun phrase.

Activity 8.1

Identify the adjective clause, if any, in each of the following sentences.

1. The man with a large dog is Molly’s uncle.
2. The man who was walking with a large dog is Molly’s uncle.
3. Mary was talking with a woman in the market.
4. Mary did not like the woman whom she met at the market.
5. The car in the street belongs to John.
6. The car which is parked in the street belongs to John.
7. The huge engine was made in Germany.
8. The engine of this car was made in Germany.
9. The engine which drives this car was made in Germany.

There are a number of conjunctions (subordinate conjunctions) which we can use to introduce an adjective clause. We might classify these conjunctions based on both the type of the noun modified—human or thing—and on the function of the noun modified in the adjective clause—subject, object, or possessive. Look at the table below and study the exemplary sentences. It should be reminded that there are other conjunctions commonly used to introduce an adjective clause, such as, “when,” “where,” and “why.” However, the ones included in the table below might be regarded sufficient for our present purpose.

	Subject	Object	Possessive
Human	who, that [1, 2]	who, whom, that, Ø [3, 4, 5, 6]	whose [7]
Thing	which, that [8, 9]	which, that, Ø [10, 11, 12]	of which, whose [13, 14]

Exemplary sentences provided below come in sets, and each set consists of 4 sentences/clause:

- (a) is an independent clause,
- (b) is also an independent clause to be made an adjective clause,
- (c) is the adjective clause derived from the second independent clause (b),
and
- (d) is the complex sentence formed by inserting the adjective clause (c)
into the first independent clause (a).

[1] who: human-subject

No	Sentence/Clause
a	I like a student.
b	The student studies everyday.
c	[who studies everyday]
d	I like a student who studies everyday.

[2] that: human-subject

No	Sentence/Clause
a	A student will be successful.
b	The student studies everyday.
c	[that studies everyday]
d	A student that studies everyday will be successful.

[3] who: human-object

No	Sentence/Clause
a	The children are my students.
b	Mary was watching the children.
c	[who Mary was watching]
d	The children who Mary was watching are my students.

[4] whom: human-object

No	Sentence/Clause
a	I know the children.
b	Molly was teaching the children.
c	[whom Molly was teaching]
d	I know the children whom Molly was teaching.

[5] that: human-object

No	Sentence/Clause
a	The man died in the hospital.
b	We helped the man yesterday.
c	[that we helped yesterday]
d	The man that we helped yesterday died in the hospital.

[6] Ø: human-object

No	Sentence/Clause
A	Nobody can identify the man.
B	We found the man dead yesterday.
C	[we found dead yesterday]
d	Nobody can identify the man we found dead yesterday.

[7] whose: human-possessive

No	Sentence/Clause
a	The woman could cry no more.
b	The woman's son died of avian flu.
c	[whose son died of avian flu]
d	The woman whose son died of avian flu could cry no more.

[8] which: thing-subject

No	Sentence/Clause
a	I am looking for the book.
b	The book contains a lot of pictures.
c	[which contains a lot of pictures]
d	I am looking for the book which contains a lot of pictures.

[9] that: thing-subject

No	Sentence/Clause
a	The dog belongs to Jack.
b	The dog scared my cat.
c	[that scared my cat]
d	The dog that scared my cat belongs to Jack.

[10] which: thing-object

No	Sentence/Clause
a	The children were playing with the ball.
b	The dog caught the ball.
c	[which the dog caught]
d	The children were playing with the ball which the dog caught.

[11] that: thing-object

No	Sentence/Clause
a	The bread tasted terrible.
b	The dog ate the bread.
c	[that the dog ate]
d	The bread that the dog ate tasted terrible.

[12] Ø: thing-object

No	Sentence/Clause
a	The farmers have to buy fertilizer.
b	Their plants need fertilizer.
c	[their plants need]
d	The farmers have to buy fertilizer their plants need.

[13] of which: thing-possessive

No	Sentence/Clause
a	The book interests children.
b	The pictures of the book are colorful.
c	[the pictures of which are colorful]
d	The book the pictures of which are colorful interests children.

[14] whose: thing-possessive

No	Sentence/Clause
a	Children like to read the book.
b	The pictures of the book are colorful.
c	[whose pictures are colorful]
d	Children like to read the book whose pictures are colorful.

All the above 14 sets of sentences are meant to show (1) how an adjective clause is derived from an independent clause, i.e., by replacing a noun or a noun phrase with a conjunction and then moving the conjunction to the beginning of the clause, and (2) how an adjective clause functions as a modifier to a noun or a noun phrase in the main clause.

Activity 8.2

Below are 9 sets of sentences. Change Sentence B in each set into an adjective clause using the conjunction “who,” and then insert the adjective clause into Sentence A to make a complex sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. a. I do not know **the boy**.
 b. **The boy** was playing a kite.
 → [who was playing a kite]
 ⇒ I do not know the boy who was playing a kite.

2. a. I know **the girl**.
 b. **The girl** gave something to Jack.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

3. a. John is talking with **the woman**.
 b. **The woman** asked me to carry the bags.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

4. a. Do not fall in love with **the girl**.
 b. **The girl** will make your life miserable.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

5. a. We certainly should not blame **the student**.
 b. **The student** left the front door open last night.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

6. a. **The woman** was a shop attendant.
 b. **The woman** shouted at us angrily.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
7. a. **The man** was the only survivor in the plane crash.
 b. **The man** could not stop chattering.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
8. a. **The children** will be asked for more information.
 b. **The children** saw a man enter the house.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
9. a. **The girl** looks familiar to me.
 b. **The girl** is sitting alone at the table.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

Activity 8.3

Below are 9 sets of sentences. Change Sentence B in each set into an adjective clause using the conjunction “whom,” and then insert the adjective clause into Sentence A to make a complex sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. a. I do not know **the boy**.
 b. John met **the boy** this morning.
 → [whom John met this morning]
 ⇒ I do not know the boy whom John met this morning.
2. a. I know **the girl**.
 b. Jack gave **the girl** something last night.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

3. a. John is talking with **the woman**.
b. I asked **the woman** to carry the bags.
→ _____
⇒ _____
4. a. Do not fall in love with **the boy**.
b. You think **the boy** selfish.
→ _____
⇒ _____
5. a. We certainly should not blame **the student**.
b. We think **the student** not responsible.
→ _____
⇒ _____
6. a. **The woman** was a shop attendant.
b. They elected **the woman** their representative.
→ _____
⇒ _____
7. a. **The man** was the only survivor in accident.
b. The mass-media people were interviewing **the man**.
→ _____
⇒ _____
8. a. **The children** will be asked to help.
b. The teachers believe **the children** competent.
→ _____
⇒ _____
9. a. **The girl** looks familiar to me.
b. Jack asked **the girl** to join the party.
→ _____
⇒ _____

Activity 8.4

Below are 9 sets of sentences. Change Sentence B in each set into an adjective clause using the conjunction “which”, and then insert the adjective clause into Sentence A to make a complex sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. a. She bought **the flowers**.
 b. **The flowers** will be admired by many people.
 → [which will be admired by many people]
 ⇒ She bought the flowers which will be admired by many people.

2. a. **The wild cat** belongs to my uncle.
 b. **The wild cat** was sleeping on the couch.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

3. a. **The white cat** belongs to my aunt.
 b. I am feeding **the white cat**.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

4. a. I am going to show you **a device**.
 b. **The device** will be very useful in our job.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

5. a. Mary is looking for **the bag**.
 b. John mended **the bag** yesterday.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

6. a. **The animals** are called amphibians.
 b. **The animals** live both in water and on land.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

7. a. **The brown cat** belongs to my brother.
 b. Jack found **the brown cat** dead in the gutter.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
8. a. John bought **the little house**.
 b. **The house** stands on the peak of the hill.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
9. a. People say ghosts have been haunting **the house**.
 b. John bought us **the house** last year.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

Activity 8.5

Below are 9 sets of sentences. Change Sentence B in each set into an adjective clause using the conjunction “that”, and then insert the adjective clause into Sentence A to make a complex sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. a. **A dependent clause** is an adjective clause.
 b. **The dependent clause** modifies a noun.
 → [that modifies a noun]
 ⇒ A dependent clause that modifies a noun is an adjective clause.
2. a. **A man** is called a husband.
 b. **The man** has married a woman.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
3. a. **A woman** is called a wife.
 b. A man has married **the woman**.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

4. a. A judge will sentence **a person**.
 b. **The person** has been proved guilty.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

5. a. The judge will sentence **a person**.
 b. The jury has declared **the person** guilty.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

6. a. **Something** is called money.
 b. **The thing** is used as a medium of exchange.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

7. a. **The book** was written by a Canadian.
 b. Jack has been trying to find **the book**.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

8. a. The hunter would shoot **the tiger**.
 b. **The tiger** jumped out of the arena.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

9. a. People will try to get **something**.
 b. They regard **the thing** valuable.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

Activity 8.6

Below are 9 sets of sentences. Change Sentence B in each set into an adjective clause using the conjunction “whose”, and then insert the adjective clause into Sentence A to make a complex sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. a. Mary is talking with **the boy**.
 b. **His** father will buy the house.
 → [whose father will buy the house]
 ⇒ Mary is talking with the boy whose father will buy the house.

2. a. **The girl** was standing by herself.
 b. **Her** brother has deserted to Australia.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

3. a. **The boy** suffers from hyperactivity.
 b. We are helping **his** mother.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

4. a. **The woman** lives in a very large house.
 b. **Her** husband works in an oil company.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

5. a. I am helping **the children**.
 b. I will ask **their** parents to cooperate.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

6. a. **The car** won the race last year.
 b. **Its** engine was made in Japan.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

7. a. **The car** won the race last year.
 b. People are now admiring **its** streamline body.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

8. a. **The car** had to be hauled out of the track.

b. **Its** engine was made in Korea.

→ _____

⇒ _____

9. a. People admire **the car**.

b. The mechanics are now fixing **its** engine.

→ _____

⇒ _____

Activity 8.7

Below are 9 sets of sentences. Change Sentence B in each set into an adjective clause using the conjunction “Ø”, and then insert the adjective clause into Sentence A to make a complex sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. a. I am going to call **the man**.

b. John has asked **the man** to paint the house.

→ [John has asked to paint the house]

⇒ I am going to call the man John has asked to paint the house.

2. a. **The students** agreed to come.

b. We invited **the students** to the party.

→ _____

⇒ _____

3. a. **The man** is jobless at present.

b. We hired **the man** to do the job.

→ _____

⇒ _____

4. a. John does not like **the students**.

b. Mary invited **the students** to the party.

→ _____

⇒ _____

5. a. I know **the man**.
 b. Molly hired **the man** to do the job.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
6. a. **The motorcycle** was stolen yesterday morning.
 b. Jack bought **the motorcycle** only last month.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
7. a. **The house** stands on the bank of a small river.
 b. We will renovate **the house** next year.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
8. a. I have never ridden **the bicycle**.
 b. John bought **the bicycle** last year.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____
9. a. We will repaint **the bed**.
 b. Molly has moved **the bed** out of her room.
 → _____
 ⇒ _____

Activity 8.8

Following are 9 simple sentences. Modify the underlined noun in each sentence with an adjective clause using the conjunction provided in brackets. The first one is done for you.

1. Jack is talking to the man. [who]
 ⇒ Jack is talking to the man **who is sitting in the car**.
2. Mary is sitting with the woman. [whom]
 ⇒ _____
3. My sister shares a room with the student. [Ø]
 ⇒ _____
4. I am going to water the flowers. [that]
 ⇒ _____

5. My brother wants to know the girl. [whose]
⇒ _____
6. Jack will not buy the house. [which]
⇒ _____
7. I know the boy. [Ø]
⇒ _____
8. This is the book. [that]
⇒ _____
9. My brother is driving the car. [whose]
⇒ _____

Activity 8.9

Following are 9 simple sentences. Modify the underlined noun in each sentence with an adjective clause using the conjunction provided in brackets. The first one is done for you.

1. The man is my uncle. [who]
⇒ The man **who is standing beside the headmaster** is my uncle.
2. The girl is studying arts. [whom]
⇒ _____
3. The old woman has entered the building. [Ø]
⇒ _____
4. The boy was carrying a broom. [that]
⇒ _____
5. The student lives in a boarding house. [whose]
⇒ _____
6. The film was directed by a Chinese. [which]
⇒ _____
7. The factory was built in 1999. [Ø]
⇒ _____
8. The blankets are made of cotton. [that]
⇒ _____
9. The ship will sail across the Atlantic. [whose]
⇒ _____

Activity 8.10

Construct complex sentences of your own each containing an adjective clause with the following conjunctions: who, whom, Ø (human), that (human), whose, which, Ø (non-human), that (non-human), and whose.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

Activity 8.11

Construct complex sentences of your own, as many as possible, each containing an adjective clause with an appropriate subordinate conjunction.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

... _____

