SYNTAX

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THE COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence consists of two or more clauses coordinated with each other, a clause being a part of a sentence with its own subject and predicate.

E.g. He was a nice guy, Sam, but you can trust me...

but

Asyndetical – without any conjunction or connective.

E.g. The rain fell softly, the house was quiet.

Syndetical – by means of coordinating conjunctions (and, or, else, etc.) or conjunctive adverbs (yet, still, otherwise, etc.)

E.g. The darkness was thinning, but the street was dimly lighted.

Types of coordination:

Copulative – adds info: conjunctions *and*, *nor*, *neither...nor*, *not only...but* (also). *E.g.* It was a nice place **and** they were proud of it.

Disjunctive – offers a choice: conjunctions *or, else, or else, either...or,* and a conjunctive adverb *otherwise*.

E.g. Either our union must be sealed by marriage or it cannot exist.

Adversative – shows contrast: conjunctions *but, while, whereas*, and conjunctive adverbs *nevertheless, still, yet*.

E.g. The room was dark, but the street was lighter.

Causative-consecutive – shows causes and consequences: a conjunction for and conjunctive adverbs therefore, so, consequently, hence, accordingly.

E.g. They belonged to the same trade, so talk was easy between them.

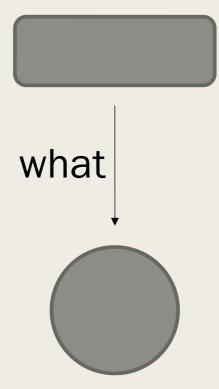
Punctuation rules:

Coordinate clauses are separated by a punctuation mark – a comma, semicolon, colon, dash.

THE COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence consists of a principal clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

E.g. I don't know what you mean.



Asyndetical – without any conjunction or connective.

E.g. I wish you had come earlier.

Syndetical – by means of coordinating conjunctions or connectives (conjunctive pronouns and adverbs).

E.g. I wish that you had come earlier.

THE SUBJECT CLAUSE

This clause performs the function of the subject to the predicate of the principal clause.

E.g. What I want to do is to save us both. It is possible that you are right.

Asyndetical – without any conjunction or connective.

E.g. It is possible you are right.

Syndetical

by means of subordinating conjunctions *that, if,* whether.

E.g. It is possible that you are right. Whether you are right is not important.

by means of conjunctive pronouns who, which, what, whoever, whatever.

E.g. What is done cannot be undone.

by means of conjunctive adverbs *where, when, how, why*.

E.g. It's a pity when you fail to understand.

Punctuation rules:

Subject clauses usually are not separated by a punctuation mark.

THE PREDICATIVE CLAUSE

This clause performs the function of the predicative and together with the link verb forms a compound nominal predicate.

E.g. Our attitude is that facts are facts.

Asyndetical – without any conjunction or connective.

E.g. Another thing was they had a nurse.

Syndetical

by means of subordinating conjunctions that, if, whether, as if.

E.g. It seems as if you are right.

by means of conjunctive pronouns who, which, what.

E.g. This time is what I love best.

by means of conjunctive adverbs *where, when, how, why*.

E.g. That is why you fail to understand.

Punctuation rules:

Predicative clauses usually are not separated by a punctuation mark.

THE OBJECT CLAUSE

This clause performs the function of the **object** to the predicate.

E.g. I don't know what you are talking about.

Asyndetical – without any conjunction or connective.

E.g. He said they were right.

Syndetical

by means of subordinating conjunctions that, if, whether.

E.g. Time will show whether I am right or wrong.

by means of conjunctive pronouns who, which, what, whatever, whoever, whichever.

E.g. You know what I love best.

by means of conjunctive adverbs *where, when, how, why*.

E.g. He wondered why you fail to understand.

Punctuation rules:

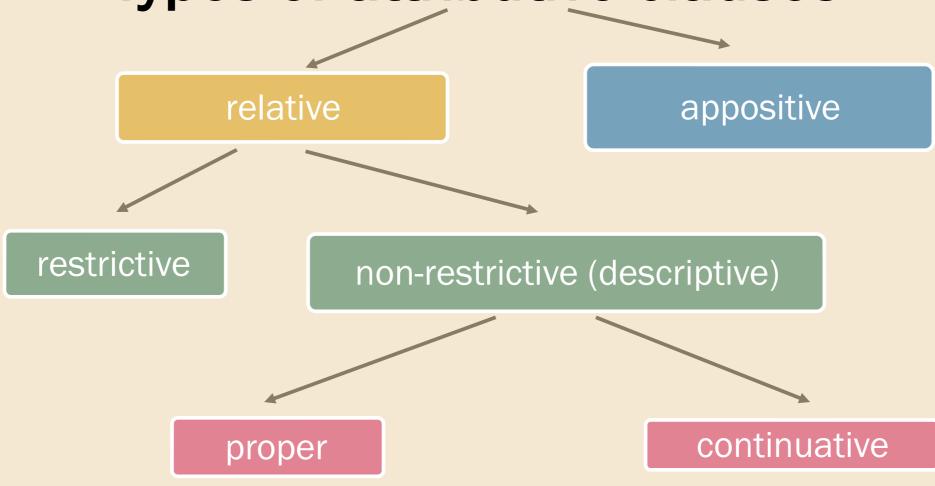
Object clauses usually are not separated by a punctuation mark.

THE ATTRIBUTIVE CLAUSE

This clause performs the function of the attribute.

E.g. I think my mother is the best person I know.

Types of attributive clauses



Attributive relative clauses qualify the antecedent.

E.g. All that could be done had been done.

Attributive relative restrictive clauses restrict the meaning of the antecedent.

E.g. There was simply nothing else **he could do**.

Asyndetical – without any conjunction or connective.

E.g. There was simply nothing else **he could do**.

Syndetical

by means of relative pronouns who, whose, which, that, as.

E.g. He was a man who took delight in simple things.

by means of relative adverbs where, when.

E.g. They spoke on the way to lodgings where they stayed.

Attributive relative non-restrictive (descriptive) clauses give additional information about the antecedent. They are separated by commas.

E.g. Mr.Prusty, who kept no assistant, slowly got off his stool.

Syndetical

by means of relative pronouns who, which.

E.g. Mr.Brown, who kept no assistant, slowly got off his stool.

by means of relative adverbs where, when.

E.g. He went into the dining-room where the table was laid.

Attributive relative non-restrictive continuative clauses refer to the whole clause as their antecedent.

only by a relative pronoun which

E.g. You understand this theme, which is good.

Attributive appositive clauses disclose the meaning of the antecedent, expressed by an abstract or semantically empty noun.

E.g. He stopped in the hope that she would speak.

Syndetical

by means of conjunctions that, whether.

E.g. He stopped in the hope that she would speak.

by means of relative adverbs how, why.

E.g. There was no reason why she should not read this book.

Punctuation rules:

Attributive relative restrictive and appositive clauses are not separated by a punctuation mark. Attributive relative non-restrictive (continuative included) clauses are separated by a punctuation mark (comma).

THE ADVERBIAL CLAUSE

This clause performs the function of the adverbial modifier.

E.g. He was sipping whiskey when she returned.

The adverbial clause of time shows the time of the action expressed in the principal clause. They are joined to the principal clause by subordinating conjunctions when, while, whenever, as, till, until, as soon as, as long as, since, after, before, now that.

E.g. I shall hope to visit you whenever I happen to be in London. As soon as I saw Susan I stopped noticing my surroundings.

The adverbial clause of place shows the place of the action expressed in the principal clause. They are joined to the principal clause by subordinating conjunctions where, wherever.

E.g. I am quite comfortable where I am.

The adverbial clause of condition states the condition which is necessary for the realization of the action expressed in the principal clause. They are joined to the principal clause by subordinating conjunctions *if, unless, suppose, in case, on condition that, provided, etc.*

E.g. I will do anything you wish **provided it lies in my power**.

Asyndetical type of connection is also possible.

E.g. **Had she been an Englishwoman**, he would have guessed everything.

Types of adverbial clauses:

The adverbial clause of manner characterizes in a general way the action expressed in the principal clause. They are joined to the principal clause by the subordinating conjunction as.

E.g. She did exactly as he told her.

The adverbial clause of comparison denotes an action with which the action of the principal clause is compared. They are joined to the principal clause by subordinating conjunctions than, as, as...as, not so...as, as if, as though.

E.g. He was going as fast as he could. She could see his lips moving as though he was talking to himself.

The adverbial clause of concession denotes an obstacle for the realization of the action expressed in the principal clause. They are joined to the principal clause by subordinating conjunctions though, although, as, no matter how, however, notwithstanding that, in spite of the fact that and conjunctive pronouns whoever, whatever, whichever.

E.g. I enjoyed the day though it was cold and rainy.

The adverbial clause of cause shows the cause of the action expressed in the principal clause. They are joined to the principal clause by subordinating conjunctions as, because, since, for fear (that), on the ground that, for the reason that, etc.

E.g. Letters were not welcome because they contained bad news.

Types of adverbial clauses:

The adverbial clause of purpose shows the purpose of the action expressed in the principal clause. They are joined to the principal clause by subordinating conjunctions that, in order that, so that, lest, etc.

E.g. She kept her back to the window so that he might not see her.

The adverbial clause of result shows the result of the action expressed in the principal clause. They are joined to the principal clause by subordinating conjunctions so that, that.

E.g. Darkness had fallen so that the streets were deserted. She is so weak physically that she can hardly move.

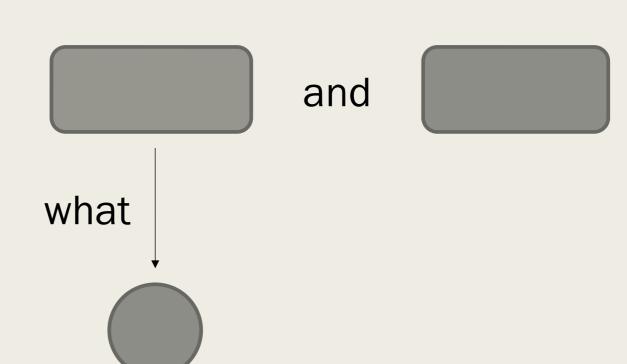
Punctuation rules:

Adverbial clauses usually are not separated by a comma when they follow the principal clause. When they precede the principal clause, they are separated by a comma.

THE COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

A compound-complex sentence consists of two or more coordinate clauses which have one or more subordinate clauses.

E.g. I don't know what you mean, and you wouldn't explain.



THE PARENTHETICAL CLAUSE

The parenthetical clause appears within another clause and interrupts its structure. It contains some information serving to elucidate what is said in the main body of the sentence.

E.g. You are, I am afraid, in need of medical advice. Her thinking is exceptional, I think.

The inserted clause has the same structure but differs in meaning – it is a casual interruption due to the speaker suddenly thinking of something vaguely connected with what he is talking about.

E.g. She would buy him – **she and Will would buy him** – books about dinosaurs.

Punctuation rules:

Such clauses as always separated by commas, dashes or parenthesis.