### What is a Clause?

**Def:** A clause is a word group that contains a verb and its subject and that is used as a sentence or as part of a sentence.

- Every clause contains a subject and a verb.
- Not all clauses express complete thoughts.

### Independent Clause

**Def:** An independent clause (or main clause) expresses a complete thought and stand by itself as a sentence.

- **Ex:** I woke up late this morning. OR Do you know Joseph?

- When an independent clause stands alone it is a sentence, typically the term independent clause is only used when it is joined with another clause.

- **Ex:** My mother drove me to school. (Independent clause and a complete sentence.)

- **Ex:** My mother drove me to school, but my brother rode his bicycle. (This sentence contains two independent clauses.)

### Subordinate Clause

**Def:** A subordinate clause (or dependent clause) does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

- Words such as *because, if, since, that, until, which,* and *whom* signal that the clause **MAY** be subordinate.

- Subordinate means “lesser in rank or importance.”

- A subordinate must be joined with one independent clause to make a complete sentence.

**Subordinate Clauses:** if the dress is too long

that the veterinarian recommended

**Sentences:** If the dress is too long, we will hem it.

The new food that the veterinarian recommended is good for our hamster.

### Adjective Clause

**Def:** An adjective clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

- An adjective clause usually follows the word or words it modifies.
- Unlike an adjective phrase, an adjective clause contains a verb.

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X How are adjectives phrases and adjective clauses alike?
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| The Relative Pronoun | Adjective: a **blue** flower  
| Adjective Phrase: a flower **with blue petals**  
| Adjective Clause: a flower **that has blue petals** (The clause does have a verb, has, and its subject, that.)  
|  
| An adjective clause is usually introduced by a relative pronoun. They are called relative pronouns because they relate an adjective clause to the noun or pronoun that the clause modifies.  
| Commonly Used Relative Pronouns: *that, which, who, whom, whose*  
| • Ex: A snorkel is a hollow **tube that** lets a diver breathe under water. (The relative pronoun **that** begins the adjective clause and relates it to the noun **tube**.)  

| Adverb Clause | Def: An adverb clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.  
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| • Unlike an adverb phrase, an adverb clause contains a verb.  
| Adverb: **Bravely**, Jason battled the fierce dragon.  
| Adverb Phrase: **With great bravery**, Jason battled the fierce dragon.  
| Adverb Clause: **Because Jason was brave**, he battled the fierce dragon. (The clause has a verb, **was**, and a subject, **Jason**.)  
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| • Ex: I feel **as though I will never catch up**. (The adverb clause tells how I feel.)  

| • Adverb clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions.  

| Common Subordinating Conjunctions  
| --- | --- | ---  
| after | because | though  
| although | before | unless  
| as | how | until  
| as if | if | when  
| as long as | in order that | whenever  
| as much as | since | wherever  
| as soon as | so that | wherever  
| as though | than | while  

How are adverbs clauses and adverb phrases different?