



INTRODUCTION TO SUBORDINATE CLAUSES

Prof. Vanessa Gorman
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
vgorman1@unl.edu

Independent Clauses

Main Clause = The PRED (main verb) with its necessary arguments and optional/satellite elements.

Valency = 0, 1, 2, or 3 necessary arguments

- 0 = *It rains.*
- 1 = *The games begin; the stones were falling; the wrestler died.*
 - **Intransitive** verbs
- 2 = *The painter produced a masterpiece; Alkibiades stirred up trouble; the war was begun by the Plataians.*
 - **Transitive** verbs
- 3 = *Kroisos gave many gifts to the Oracle; the generals sent ten ships to Naxos; Perikles brought the Athenians into agreement.*

Independent Coordinated clauses

Two or more main clauses may be coordinated into a complex sentence

- Either one forms a complete sentence with a conjugated verb
- *The Persians wintered in Sardis and the Athenians in Miletos.*
- *They fought all day long, but the battle was inconclusive.*

Introduced by *and, but, yet, or, etc.*

Subordinate Clauses

Dependent clause = incomplete

Examples:

- Perikles was advising the people. [independent]
- When Perikles was advising the people.
- After Perikles was advising the people.
- In order for Perikles to advise the people.
- That Perikles was advising the people.
- Because Perikles was advising the people.

Three ways of subordinating in Greek

1) Infinitives [*to go, to send, to have sent*]

2) Participles [*going, sending, having sent*]

3) Clauses

- **Usually introduced with a subordinating conjunction** [*so that, after, because, etc.*].
- **Followed by a conjugated verb or an infinitive.**
- **Uses the indicative mood for statements of fact.**

Subordinate clauses can fulfil any role that a nominal/noun can fulfil

- Obligatory constituent = SBJ, OBJ, OCOMP, PNOM
 - Necessary argument of the PRED
- Optional constituent/satellite = ADV, ATR

Main Types of Subordinate Clauses

Temporal Clauses

Causal Clauses

Purpose Clauses

Object Clauses of
Fear and of Effort

Comparison Clauses

Result Clauses

Relative Clauses

Substantive Clauses

- Including Indirect Speech

Conditional Sentences

Temporal Clauses [ADV]

Time when (*when, while*)

- Perikles was delivering a speech when he was interrupted.
- Perikles was delivering a speech while the fleet sailed into the harbor.

Time prior to (*after, when*)

- After he arrived, the envoy spoke to the Council.
- When he arrived, the envoy spoke to the Council.

Time subsequent to (*until, before*)

- Before Perikles gave his speech, the envoy spoke to the Council.
- He continued speaking until the sun set.

Causal Clauses [ADV]

“Because” or “since”

Perikles stopped speaking because the sun was setting.

He paid the ransom for his son, since he had no choice.

She married the stranger because her father forced her to do so.

Purpose Clauses/Final Clauses [ADV]

Expressed purpose: Why?

“In order to,” “so as to,” “so that”

Perikles delivered the speech in order to convince the demos.

In order to ensure victory, Kroisos made many offerings to the gods.

Kleon ran quickly so as to be the first one to deliver the good news.

Object Clauses [OBJ]

Very close to purpose clauses, but they represent required arguments of the verbs.

EFFORT [Means to accomplish something rather than just the intention]

- *He worked **to finish the plowing before dusk.***
- *He took pains **to secure the ship to the dock.***

FEAR [undesired result; a kind of negative purpose]

- *He was afraid **lest his family be killed.***
- *He was afraid **that the enemy would not be defeated.***

Comparison Clauses [ADV]

“as” with correlative “so”

Like a genitive of comparison, but expressed with an entire clause.

- *He is faster **than Kleon**.* [gen of comparison]
- **As he ran, so his pursuers ran faster still.** [comparison clause]

Used for similes

- **As a father wails for the death of his son, so Achilles wailed.**

Result Clauses [ADV]

How something turns out

- Often modifies a demonstrative adjective or adverb in the main clause [“such” or “so”]

He was so hungry that he gulped down his food without chewing.

It was such a big boat that it took two weeks to load it.

There were so many man that they could not all be fed at one time.

Relative Clauses

“Who” or “which/that”

The man who killed Ephialtes is unknown still.

I admire the author who wrote that book.

The sword that he used in battle was broken.

The boat, which was painted bright blue, weighed anchor at noon.

Substantive Clauses [SBJ, OBJ, etc.]

Plays the part of a substantive in the main clause

- “That”

After verbs of emotion: “rejoicing, grieving, wondering.”

- He rejoiced that his son was still alive.
- She wondered that her son was so bold.

The SBJ of impersonal verbs

- It is clear that we will not win.

After verbs of “saying, knowing, perceiving, showing.”

- He demonstrated that his plan was sound.
- The general knew that his men were tired.

Substantive Clause in Indirect Speech [OBJ]

Introduced by a verb of saying

- Can take the form of questions, statements, and commands

The general said that he was going to Ephesus.

The general said to go to Ephesus.

The general asked whether he was going to Ephesus.

Conditional Sentences [ADV]

If ... then statements

- The “if” clause is dependent/subordinate. It is the **protasis**.
- The “then” clause is independent. It is the **apodosis**.
 - “Then” is often unexpressed.

If *Persia invades again*, **then** we will not be able to defend ourselves.

If *it were to rain*, *I would have to delay my departure*.

If *he had departed on time*, *he would be here by now*.

