

ENG 1100 Lecture 2- What Makes A Sentence

What is a sentence:

- A sentence is a group of words that form a complete idea
- So while “long and tiring day” is a group of words, it is not a sentence because it is not a complete thought.
- EX. Anita had a long and tiring day
- A complete thought has been expressed.
- CAN BE FOUND IN CHAPTER 5
- EX. Although we got up early. → this is not a sentence either.

Clauses:

- The basic unit of a sentence is a clause.
- A clause must be at least a subject and a verb. The subject is the doer of an action, while the verb is the action (or state of being).
- 2 main types of clauses → Dependent and Independent
- EX. When Ellie went out on Saturday night... → needs more information to make it a sentence. Something to answer when. This makes it a *dependent clause*
- **Dependent clause: needs something to be complete, cannot stand on its own, add another clause to complete sentence.**
EX. When Ellie went out on Saturday night, She got an Uber ride home. → complete sentence
- EX. She got an Uber ride home. → independent clause
- **Independent clause: Can stand on its own, supports a dependent clause**
- “Although we got up early...” is a clause → subject and verb → still not a complete sentence.
- *We* is the subject
- *Got up* is the verb
- Not all clauses can stand as sentences
- EX. Robbie ate fish tacos
- This is a very simple clause but, grammatically, it can stand alone as it is a complete idea. In this case, the clause is composed of a *subject (Robbie)*, a *verb (ate)* and an *object (fish tacos)*.
- With some verbs, you *must* have an object
- EX. Maria threw → since Maria has to throw something, an object is required.
- Other verbs do not need an object
- EX. Jacob coughed. Eloise snored.
- In both of these short clauses there is a subject and a verb, and that is all. However, these are still independent clause and can function as a sentence. Nothing else is required. You can add an *adverb* to give more detail but you don't add an object
- Just to complicate things, some verbs require no object because they are so-called *linking verbs*
- EX. Sylvester felt strong → subject, verb and an adjective → felt is a linking verb (because you cannot actually physically feel strong)

- *Adjective* is a describing word
- Dependent clauses are often signalled as such by beginning with a *subordinating conjunction* (AWH 62)
- Here is a list of some of the most common: After, Although, as, as if , even though, if, in order to, since, though, unless, until, whatever, when, whenever, whether, and while
- Automatically a dependent clause if it begins with a subordinating conjunction
- **Note:** when the dependent clause precedes the independent clause, they are separated by a comma.
- EX. Unless he cuts down on partying, Bartok will run out of money by thanksgiving.
- EX. It sometimes takes singer-songwriters many years to become established; Ed Sheeran's first full album sold seven million copies → note the punctuation change.

Phrase:

- Not all groups of words are clauses. Sometimes a group of words lacks a subject or verb (so cannot be a clause in its own right) but still have a function as a phrase within a clause. Phrases function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. This lecture began with a phrase: *long and tiring day*
- EX. The lonely old horse made friends with a goat.
- Here "the lonely old horse" is a phrase that works as a noun and is the subject of a verb "make friends"
- EX. it has been a long, hot and humid summer.
- Here " long, hot and humid" is a phrase that works as an adjective modifying the noun "summer"
- EX. we Canoeed across the lake
- Here we have "across the lake" as an adverb phrase modifying the verb "canoed", telling where the verb took place
- Adverb phrases must answer: when, why and how