# Clauses: Definition, Types & Examples



A**clause**is comprised of a group of words which includes a subject and a [finite verb](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/verb#finite). A clause contains only one subject and one verb. The subject of a clause can be mentioned or hidden, but the verb must be apparent and distinguishable.

A **clause** “a group of words containing a subject and predicate and functioning as a member of a complex or compound sentence.” – Merriam-Webster

**Example:**

* I graduated last year. (One clause sentence)
* When I came here, I saw him. (Two clause sentence)
* When I came here, I saw him, and he greeted me. (Three clause sentence)

## Types of Clause

Clauses are mainly of two types:

* [Independent Clause](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/clauses#independent)
* [Dependent Clause](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/clauses#dependent)

### Independent Clause

An **independent clause** functions on its own to make a meaningful [sentence](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/sentence-definition-n-types) and looks much like a regular sentence.

In a sentence two independent clauses can be connected by the **coordinators**: **and, but, so, or, nor, for\*, yet\*.**

**Example**:

* He is a wise man.
* I like him.
* Can you do it?
* Do it please. (Subject **you** is hidden)
* I read the whole story.
* I want to buy a phone, **but** I don’t have enough money. (Two independent clauses)
* He went to London **and** visited the Lords. (Subject of the second clause is ‘he,' so “he visited the Lords” is an independent clause.)
* Alex smiles whenever he sees her. (One independent clause)

### Dependent Clause

A **dependent clause** cannot function on its own because it leaves an idea or thought unfinished. It is also called subordinate clause. Dependent clauses help the independent clauses complete the sentence. A dependent clause alone cannot form a complete sentence.

The **subordinators** do the work of connecting the dependent clause to another clause to complete the sentence. In each of the dependent clause, the first word is a subordinator. Subordinators include relative pronouns, subordinating conjunctions, and noun clause markers.

**Example:**

* When I was dating Daina, I had an accident.
* I know the man who stole the watch.
* He bought a car which was too expensive.
* I know that he cannot do it.
* He does not know where he was born.
* If you don’t eat, I won’t go.
* He is a very talented player though he is out of form