

## A closer look at long sentences

English language has three clauses: Adjective, Noun and Adverb Clauses, and these clauses have different types and functions. If you can detect them when reading long sentences, you can divide the sentences into chunks easier; and this may help you understand the sentences better. What is more, identifying these clauses may help you write structurally more accurate sentences and express yourself better.

For better understanding of these worksheets, note the following:

- SVO = subject + verb + other elements
- Phrase = a group of words.
  - a. Verb Phrase – study biology
  - b. Adjective Phrase – very excited
  - c. Noun Phrase – the massive ship
  - d. Adverb Phrase – too slowly
  - e. Prepositional Phrase – during dinner
- Clause = a clause can be constructed with “that, which, after, since, so that, etc.” OR verb forms “Ving, V3, toV”. For example:

... **who** studies in the US.

... **that** she will see London at last.

... **when** the parcel was delivered to the wrong address.

☞ The verbs in these clauses have a tense; therefore, these clauses are called “finite”.

... the student **studying** in the US.

... **to see** London at last.

... **delivered** to the wrong address.

☞ The verbs in these clauses don't have a tense; therefore, these clauses are called “non-finite”.

### Types of Clauses:

#### **A. Adjective Clause**

Celebrations such as weddings are often times **when families gather together**.

The girl **eating ice-cream** is my daughter. (non-finite)

#### **B. Noun Clause**

**When families gather together** is what sociology is interested in.

**Eating / To eat ice-cream** on a hot day is delightful. (non-finite)

#### **C. Adverb Clause**

**When families gather together**, there is either a wedding or a funeral.

**Eating ice-cream**, she nearly got chocked. (non-finite)

Let's look into the following sentences:

1. Therefore, the line between man and machine is blurring to the extent that **what previously seemed in the realm of science fiction** is now science fact as the accelerating growth of technology has already allowed us to transform the human body in ways that previous eras would have found inconceivable.

- a. **to the/such an extent that:** If you are talking about how great, important, or serious a difficulty or situation is, you can refer to *the extent* of it. *To the extent that* puts emphasis, a stronger meaning when saying that because one thing is happening something else happens. In other words, this phrase gives us the CAUSE and RESULT of something:

the line between man and machine is blurring to the extent that what previously seemed in the realm of science fiction is now science fact

CAUSE

RESULT

- b. **what previously seemed in the realm of science fiction** is now science fact =

S (Noun clause – subject function)

V      O

The bold part is a noun clause and it functions as the subject of the sentence. What is now science fact? The things which people saw as science fiction in the past.

- c. **as** = Can you see that “as” is an Adverb Clause linker of Reason?

What is the reason why science fiction has become science fact? The reason is that *thanks to technology we can transform human body in ways that could not have been imagined before*.

Note: Here are some synonyms for “as” in this meaning: “since”, “because”, “in that”, “seeing that”, etc.

- d. **that previous eras would have found inconceivable** = This is an Adjective Clause modifying “the ways”. What kind of ways? = that previous eras would have found inconceivable.

Note: “**would have V3**”. This is a modal perfect structure. Remember? In such structures we talk about the PAST – real or unreal past. “would have V3” tells us that a prediction, probability, etc. in the past did not happen.

In the sentence above, the writer means if the people in the past had thought about the current transformation of human body, they would have found it unbelievable or impossible.

2. ① These enhancements will undoubtedly benefit many, but ② even plastic surgery has already attracted significant amounts of controversy, **SO** we can expect that nanotechnology-enabled enhancements will mirror the same controversies, but ③ they will be even more contentious since they will also bring up important moral, ethical, and legal questions that human society has not yet had to face.

a. In this rather long sentence, there are actually 3 sentences (underlined) that are linked with "but". Note that "but" and "although" are similar in meaning; however, you cannot use "although" where you use "but". For example:

**BUT** can link TWO Sentences, Clauses, Phrases, Verbs, Nouns, Adjectives, Adverbs or Prepositions

Examples:

*Anna is highly intelligent, but she is rather lazy.* (SENTENCES)

*Anna is highly intelligent but rather lazy.* (ADJECTIVE PHRASES)

*Anna is for the first decision but against the second.* (PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES)

**ALTHOUGH** is an *Adverb Clause linker*, and it is used only with a clause.

Example:

*Although he's got a good job now, he still complains.*

☞ Note that the adverb clause here has no meaning without the main sentence; i.e.: it is dependent on the main clause to be meaningful.

b. "since they will also bring up important moral, ethical, and legal questions that human society has not yet had to face" = **Adverb Clause of Reason**.

c. "SO" has 2 different meanings as a linker. Be careful!

**SO = Result**

Tom was born in France, **so** he also has a French passport.

⚡ To use "so" in the RESULT meaning, you must use a COMMA with it.

Synonyms or related words for this sense of "so":

*therefore, consequently, accordingly, thus, hence, as a result /consequence*

**SO = Purpose**

Rita lowered her voice **so (that)** no one would hear her.

The Athletics Federation has introduced stricter regulations **so as to** prevent cheating.

⚡ See that in the first sentence the linker is followed by a SVO but in the second sentence the linker requires a verb to follow it.

even plastic surgery has already attracted significant amounts of controversy,

SO we can expect that nanotechnology-enabled enhancements will mirror the same controversies (RESULT)

3. There is the further threat *that those that control all the resources, the enhanced class, would feel increasingly disconnected from the underclass, and as a result would not want to engage in politics or economic redistribution, trapping the poor in their position.*
- a. The whole part in italics (...*that control all the resources, the enhanced class, would feel increasingly disconnected from the underclass, and as a result would not want to engage in politics or economic redistribution, trapping the poor in their position*) is a NOUN CLAUSE because it tells us about the threat.  
What is the threat? "Those that control all the resources, the enhanced class, would feel increasingly disconnected from the underclass, and as a result would not want to engage in politics or economic redistribution, trapping the poor in their position".

Note: "the fact / belief / claim / opinion / threat ... that SVO".

✎ Here you must see the first 'THAT' in this sentence (*There is the further threat **that** ...*) is not an adjective clause pronoun; i.e. it does NOT describe the threat; thus, it is NOT an adjective clause. It is a Noun Clause that **explains what the threat is**.

- b. "those **that** control all the resources".  
Now, this is an Adjective Clause and it describes "those". Which 'those'? Those [people] **that/who** control all the resources.
- c. "**the enhanced class**". Can you see that "the enhanced class" is "those that control all the resources"? Therefore, the subject of the noun clause is "*those that control all the resources, the enhanced class*".

Note: We can describe a noun (phrase) with another noun (phrase). For example:

Dr. Richmond, (who is) **the dean of the engineering department**, will deliver a speech at the ceremony. OR

**The dean of the engineering department**, Dr. Richmond will deliver a speech at the ceremony.

- d. ", **trapping** the poor in their position" = ", which traps the poor in their position"  
The last chunk of the whole sentence tells us the result of what is stated prior to it. In other words, the enhanced class would not engage in politics or economic redistribution AND THIS will trap the poor in their position.

Note: ", **which**" is sometimes used as an adjective clause pronoun when we want to modify the whole sentence/idea/statement before it.

For example:

Ethiopia's lava lake neither rests nor erupts, but is in a constant state of volcanic flux, **which makes the site an ideal place of study for scientists**.

In this example, the adjective clause **which makes...** does NOT describe the *volcanic flux*; it describes **the whole statement/idea** before it.

✎ ", **which**" can be shortened with Ving. Thus, we can write the same sentence as follows:

Ethiopia's lava lake neither rests nor erupts, but is in a constant state of volcanic flux, **making the site an ideal place of study for scientists**.