

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. Today's social media **have helped make real** the idea of a "global village", *first put forward by communications theorist Marshall McLuhan in the 1960s*, and **suggests that the claims of a "flat world" by twenty-first century essayist Thomas L. Friedman are true.**

- a. Subject = "Today's social media". This subject does two things: "help make real" and "suggest".

Note: "help" can be used as shown below:

- help (to) do something
- help *someone* (to) do something

For example: Foreign students can help (to) revitalize our economy.
The organization has helped *farmers* (to) form cooperatives.

- b. "first put forward by communications theorist Marshall McLuhan in the 1960s":
This is a non-finite adjective clause (because verb of the clause does not have a tense) and it is PASSIVE. As you see, to make the clause *non-finite*, "which" + "was" are omitted.

"... global village, ~~which was~~ first put forward by communications theorist Marshall McLuhan in the 1960s ..." This clause describes the phrase "global village".

Note: When you want to transform Passive *Finite* Adjective Clauses into *Non-finite* (Reduced) form, you need to omit the tense and "which/who/that". For example:

A new study, ~~which was~~ conducted at University of Utah, found that when people are in a bad mood, they tend to look at profiles of unsuccessful social media friends to feel better about themselves.

- c. ... suggests that the claims of a "flat world" by twenty-first century essayist Thomas L. Friedman are true.
Object Function Noun Clause

Note: A very common construction in object function Noun Clauses is using a "**that SVO or wh-word/if/whether SVO**" after the main verb. In most language books this is taught as Reported Speech. No matter what the name is, you should know when to use "that SVO" and when to use "wh-word/whether/if SVO". As you see in the first column below, "that SVO" is used after verbs that are related to **statements**, but "wh-word/whether/if SVO" is used after verbs that have a meaning of **uncertainty or questioning**.

S	V	that SVO	S	V	wh- word SVO
	suggest				whether/if SVO
	mention			ask	
	state			interrogate	
	announce			wonder	
	claim			explain	
	say			argue	
	argue			find out	
	etc.			etc.	

3. A modern, well-equipped smartphone, which has now become an indispensable tool for everyone, has become a pocket-sized mega-studio *with all the applications and services of information and communications technology* **merging together more and more**.

- a. "which has now become an indispensable tool for everyone". This is an Adjective Clause and describes "A modern, well-equipped smartphone".
- b. "with all the applications and services of information and communications technology". This is an "Adjective Phrase". See how it is constructed:

a pocket-sized mega-studio **which has** all the applications and services of information and communications technology

a pocket-sized mega-studio **with** all the applications and services of information and communications technology

These two sentences mean the same!

Note: When you have an adjective clause constructed with "who/which/that" and "have", you can sometimes omit them and use "with" instead. Example:

Murray Gell-Mann, a professor of physics, has been described as "The Man ~~who has with~~ **Five Brains**".

- c. *all the applications and services of information and communications technology* **merging together more and more**.

The bold part is again an Adjective Clause and it is non-finite because "merging together more and more" describes the whole noun phrase before it and the verb of the clause does not have a tense. Remember? When the adjective clause has an active verb, we can reduce it (make it non-finite) by changing it into 'Ving' form.

Example: The teacher **who reviewed our test** discussed the results with us. (Finite)
The teacher **reviewing our test** discussed the results with us. (Non-finite)

4. More noteworthy is two-step communication, ① which means conversation with opinion leaders, colleagues, friends, and acquaintances ② who can either consolidate or weaken the voter's opinion ③, which is now much easier thanks to the interactive social media.

- ① which means conversation with opinion leaders, colleagues, friends, and acquaintances

This adjective clause describes the "two-step communication"

- ② who can either consolidate or weaken the voter's opinion

This adjective clause describes the "opinion leaders, colleagues, friends, and acquaintances"

- ③ , which is now much easier thanks to the interactive social media.

This adjective clause describes the actions it follows; i.e. consolidating or weakening the voter's opinion

5. Expert in communications networks and information sharing, Harvard professor Yochai Benkler (2010) says that it is the first time in history that the average individual rises to the centre of digital content production, sharing his own knowledge, wisdom, and personal experiences with his peers **to fight for the life they wish to have** and *that millions regard social media as the ultimate tool for democracy.*

a. "Expert in communications networks and information sharing ..."

This chunk describes Harvard Professor Yochai Benkler and therefore, it is a part of the subject, and therefore, the subject of this sentence is "Expert in communications networks and information sharing, Harvard professor Yochai Benkler".

b. "... the average individual **rises** to the centre of digital content production, **sharing** his own knowledge, wisdom, and personal experiences with his peers to fight for..."

In English, we can create complex sentences using Ving like in the sentence above. See the following examples for better understanding:

- i. Jane realised her mistake **and** she apologised. → **Realising** her mistake, Jane apologised.
- ii. The tiger was made unconscious with an injection, **and** it was put in a cage to be sent to the London Zoo. → The tiger, **being made unconscious with an injection**, was put in a cage to be sent to the London Zoo*.

*Notice the passive!

In the chunk above, there are two verbs that have a reason-result OR before-after relation. In other words, the sentence tells us:

Reason/Before ⇨ the individual shares his knowledge, wisdom and personal experiences...

Result/After ⇨ the individual rises to the centre of digital content production

✎ Also note that the writer chose to give the result before the reason unlike the situation in the example.

c. "... to fight for the life they wish to have ..."

"To V" is used in many ways and one of them is to convey the meaning of PURPOSE. See below:

In order that SVO Regular checks at mining sites are required **in order that** safety standards are maintained.

↓

In order to V Regular checks at mining sites are required **in order to** maintain safety standards.

↓

To V Regular checks at mining sites are required **to** maintain safety standards.

With the chunk above, therefore, the sentence tells us that *the individual shares his own knowledge, wisdom, and personal experiences* **BECAUSE s/he wants to fight for the life they wish to have.**

d. "... that millions regard social media as the ultimate tool for democracy."

Where does this "that" belong? Is it a demonstrative pronoun? Is it the "that" we use in adjective clauses? Or is it the "that" we use in noun clauses? Let's check!

- Does it show anything? NO. Thus, it is not a demonstrative pronoun.
- Does it come after a noun? NO. You know that adjective clauses describe the noun they follow. But here "that" comes after "and"; therefore, "that" cannot be an adjective clause pronoun.
- Does this "that" have a relation with the main verb "says"? YES. The professor says two things and therefore, both "*that*" s belong to the verb "say".
Remember Object Function Noun Clauses:

S	V	that SVO
The professor	says	<p>① that it is the first time in history that the average individual rises to the centre of digital content production, sharing his own knowledge, wisdom, and personal experiences with his peers to fight for the life they wish to have</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>and</i></p> <p>② that millions regard social media as the ultimate tool for democracy.</p>