

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. The term "prosumer" is entering the language to describe talented amateurs who use **sophisticated but affordable** consumer technology to produce quality news reports or instructional videos, for instance.
 - a. "But" is one of the frequently used linkers, and therefore, we tend to learn it easily. However, when we see it *in* a sentence rather than *between* sentences, we may get confused.

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 talked to the manager *quietly* but *confidently*. (ADVERB PHRASES)

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

In the sentence above, as you see, "but" links two adjectives: **sophisticated but affordable**.

b. to V

"to Verb" is used in many ways. For example:

- After certain verbs like *want* [She hopes to attend the conference.]
- To reduce Adjective Clause with modals like The tennis player who will represent ... = The tennis player to represent ...
- In some phrasal modals like "be able toV", "be likely to V" ...
- When we want to mean "purpose". E.g.: Samuel trained every day in order to improve his performance.

In the sentence above "to describe" and "to produce" are used to mean Purpose.

- i. Why is the term "prosumer" entering the language? "To describe talented amateurs who use ..."
- ii. Why do amateurs use sophisticated but affordable consumer technology? "To produce quality news reports ..."

2. Even 25-to-34-year-olds view, on average, almost 140 hours a month of traditional TV programming - **more than 20 times as many hours as they spend watching video** on the Internet or on their phones.

① **more than 20 times** ② **as many hours as they spend watching video**

adverb of DEGREE

Adverb Clause of COMPARISON

① **more than 20 times**

How many hours 25-to-34-year-olds view traditional TV programming? = almost 140 hours a month.

What is the ratio of this amount to the hours they spend watching video on the Internet or on their phones? = Almost 140 hours a month is 20+ times more than the total hour they spend watching video on the Internet or on their phones.

Note: In comparative structures when you want to intensify the comparison you use Adverbs of Degree. Examples:

- The new flat was **far more expensive** than the old one.
- Our tech support and reliability are **frankly the best** on the Internet.
- A Master's program in Leiden is **three times more expensive** than other Dutch universities.
- Physical illnesses can be diagnosed **much more reliably** than mental ones can be.
- Liz didn't do **quite as much work as** she should have done.

And in the chunk above, "more than 20 times" is an intensifier.

"Even 25-to-34-year-olds view, on average, almost 140 hours a month of traditional TV programming - [which is] **more than 20 times as many hours as** they spend watching video on the Internet or on their phones."

② **as many hours as they spend watching video**

We know that, in English, **AS ADJ / ADV AS** shows comparison between two things, humans, situations, etc. For e.g.:

Our new professor is **as** proficient in German **as** the previous one.

1

Adj.

2

Natural black pearls occur **twice as** rarely as natural white pearls.

1

Adv.

2

In the chunk above, the amount of time when TV is watched is compared with the amount of time when videos are watched on the Internet or phones on the basis of hours.

3. The capabilities are developing **so quickly, and spreading so widely, that** it's safe to say that prosumer content will soon provide serious competition for some genres of professionally produced content - news footage, for instance, and some reality TV shows.

So adverb that SVO

This is an Adverb Clause of Result.

RESULT = it's safe to say that prosumer content will soon provide serious competition for some genres of professionally produced content.

CAUSE = The capabilities are developing so quickly, and spreading so widely

Examples:

Everything happened **so quickly that I hadn't time to think.**

The human body is designed **so intricately that it still has unknowns to science.**