

chapter 6 the clause subordinate clauses the adjective

Published: September 27, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

When we study the intricacies of English grammar, certain chapters stand out as turning points in our understanding of sentence structure. One such pivotal lesson is **Chapter 6: The Clause, Subordinate Clauses, and the Adjective**. This chapter is not only foundational for mastering complex sentences but also essential for anyone looking to elevate their writing to a professional level. In this comprehensive guide, we'll unpack the key concepts of subordinate clauses, delve into adjective clauses, and explore how they work together to add depth and nuance to our language.

Overview of Chapter 6

Chapter 6 is designed to bridge the gap between simple sentences and more sophisticated constructions. It introduces the concept of clauses—specifically subordinate clauses—and demonstrates how these clauses function as modifiers. The chapter's focus on the adjective clause provides a practical lens through which learners can see how relative pronouns and relative adverbs bring additional detail to a sentence.

In this article, we'll cover:

- What a clause is and why it matters.
- The role of subordinate clauses in sentence construction.
- How adjective clauses modify nouns and add meaning.
- Common pitfalls and how to avoid them.
- Practice exercises to reinforce your learning.

Understanding Clauses

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate. Clauses can be independent or dependent. Independent clauses can stand alone as complete sentences, while dependent clauses need an independent clause to form a complete thought.

Independent vs. Dependent Clauses

Independent clauses are the backbone of any sentence. For example:

Independent clause: *The sun set behind the mountains.*

Dependent clauses, on the other hand, rely on an independent clause to convey a complete idea. They often begin with subordinating conjunctions such as *although, because, if, when, while, after, before, as, and where*:

Dependent clause: *because the sky was clear.*

When combined, these clauses create a sentence that is richer and more informative.

Subordinate Clauses in Detail

Subordinate clauses are a subset of dependent clauses that provide additional information. They are categorized

by the type of information they add: time, cause, condition, concession, purpose, comparison, and more. Understanding each type helps you use them accurately and effectively.

Types of Subordinate Clauses

1. Adverbial Clauses: Explain when, why, how, where, and under what conditions something happens.
2. Relative Clauses (Adjective Clauses): Modify a noun or pronoun by providing extra detail.
3. Conditional Clauses: Present a condition that must be met for the main clause to occur.
4. Concessive Clauses: Show contrast or unexpected outcomes.
5. Purpose Clauses: Explain the intention behind an action.

Key Subordinating Conjunctions

Here's a quick reference for common subordinating conjunctions and their functions:

- Because, since, as: Cause
- When, while, after, before: Time
- If, unless, provided that: Condition
- Although, though, even though: Concession
- So that, in order that: Purpose

Adjective Clauses Explained

Adjective clauses, also known as relative clauses, are a special type of subordinate clause that modifies a noun or pronoun. They provide essential or non-essential information. The difference between essential (restrictive) and non-essential (non-restrictive) clauses is critical for punctuation and meaning.

Essential (Restrictive) Adjective Clauses

These clauses are integral to the meaning of the sentence. They do not require commas because they limit or specify the noun they modify.

Example: *The students who study hard often succeed.*

Without the clause “who study hard,” the sentence loses its specificity.

Non-Essential (Non-Restrictive) Adjective Clauses

These clauses add extra information but are not essential to the sentence's meaning. They are set off by commas.

Example: *My brother, who lives in New York, is visiting this summer.*

Removing the clause still leaves a complete, grammatically correct sentence.

Relative Pronouns and Adverbs

Adjective clauses begin with relative pronouns or relative adverbs. The choice depends on the function of the clause and the pronoun's role:

- Who, whom, whose: Refer to people.
- Which, that: Refer to objects or animals.
- When, where, why: Refer to time, place, or reason.
- Who: The teacher who is passionate inspires us.
- Which: The book which is on the shelf is mine.
- Where: The café where we met is closed.
- Why: The reason why she left remains unclear.

Common Mistakes with Adjective Clauses

Even seasoned writers can fall into pitfalls when using subordinate clauses. Here are some frequent errors and how to correct them.

1. Omitting the Relative Pronoun

Students often forget the relative pronoun, leading to incomplete clauses.

Incorrect: *The student, studying late, was tired.*

Correct: *The student **who was studying** late was tired.*

2. Misplacing Commas

Using commas incorrectly can change the sentence's meaning.

Incorrect: *She bought a dress, that is red, for the party.*

Correct: *She bought a dress that is red for the party.*

3. Using "That" with People

"That" is typically used for objects, not people. Using it for people can sound awkward.

Incorrect: *The teacher that is late.*

Correct: *The teacher who is late.*

4. Double Subordination

Overloading a sentence with multiple subordinate clauses can confuse readers.

Incorrect: *Because the meeting, which was scheduled for Monday, was postponed, the team, which had prepared, was disappointed.*

Correct: *Because the meeting was postponed, the team was disappointed.*

Practical Application: Building Complex Sentences

Let's practice constructing sentences that incorporate subordinate clauses, especially adjective clauses. By combining multiple clauses, you can create nuanced, engaging prose.

Step 1: Start with a Simple Sentence

Example: *The dog barked.*

Step 2: Add an Adverbial Clause (Time)

Example: *The dog barked **when the mailman arrived**.*

Step 3: Insert an Adjective Clause (Restriction)

Example: *The dog **that lives next door** barked **when the mailman arrived**.*

Step 4: Add a Conditional Clause

Example: *The dog **that lives next door** barked **when the mailman arrived** **if the mailman carries a package**.*

Step 5: Polish and Proofread

Make sure punctuation is correct, especially commas around non-essential clauses.

Practice Exercises

To reinforce your understanding of subordinate clauses and adjective clauses, try the following exercises. Write your responses in complete sentences.

Exercise 1: Identify the Clause Types

Read the sentences and label each subordinate clause as **adverbial** or **adjective**:

1. The teacher, who is passionate about literature, inspired the class.
2. We will go to the park if it does not rain.
3. She left early because she had an appointment.
4. The book, which is on the shelf, belongs to me.

Exercise 2: Rewrite Sentences with Adjective Clauses

Rewrite each sentence by adding an adjective clause that modifies the noun in parentheses.

1. She bought a car. (the car is blue)
2. He read a book. (the book is interesting)
3. The team won the game. (the game was tough)

Exercise 3: Combine Sentences Using Subordinate Clauses

Merge the two sentences below into one complex sentence using an appropriate subordinate clause.

1. John finished his homework. He went to the park.
2. The storm raged. The city was evacuated.

Integrating Chapter 6 Concepts into Your Writing

Mastering subordinate clauses, especially adjective clauses, can dramatically improve the clarity and sophistication of your writing. Here are some strategies to keep these concepts fresh:

- **Read Widely:** Pay attention to how authors use clauses in literature and journalism.
- **Practice Writing:** Regularly write paragraphs that incorporate multiple subordinate clauses.
- **Peer Review:** Exchange drafts with peers and focus on clause usage.
- **Use Tools:** Grammar-checking software can flag missing relative pronouns or misplaced commas.

Conclusion

Chapter 6—The Clause, Subordinate Clauses, and the Adjective—serves as a cornerstone for anyone seeking to write with precision and flair. By understanding how subordinate clauses function, mastering adjective clauses, and avoiding common pitfalls, you can transform simple sentences into layered, engaging prose. Keep practicing, stay curious, and let the power of clauses elevate your writing to new heights.

Baca Juga (Artikel Terkait)

- [chapter 17 study acids bases](#)

URL: <http://basicgravity.com/chapter-17-study-acids-bases.pdf>

- [chapter 17 section 5 the cold war thaws answers](#)

URL: <http://basicgravity.com/chapter-17-section-5-the-cold-war-thaws-answers.pdf>

- [chapter 17 section 4 the home front d reading answers](#)

URL: <http://basicgravity.com/chapter-17-section-4-the-home-front-d-reading-answers.pdf>

- [chapter 17 section 4 the home front answers](#)

URL: <http://basicgravity.com/chapter-17-section-4-the-home-front-answers.pdf>

Tags: #chapter #clause #subordinate #clauses #adjective

