

The background features a large, faint watermark of the University of Basrah logo. The logo is circular and contains a central emblem of a palm tree above an open book. The text 'جامعة البصرة' (University of Basrah) is written in Arabic at the bottom, and 'COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR HUMAN SCIENCES' is written in English around the bottom edge. The year '1975' is visible on both the left and right sides of the emblem.

**English Grammar
Fourth Year
2019-2020**

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Week 7: The Complex Sentence

Lecture No. 21:

- **Functional classes of dependent clauses**

Functional classes of dependent clauses

On the basis of their potential functions, we distinguish several major categories of dependent clauses: *NOMINAL*, *ADVERBIARL*, *RELATIVE*, and *COMPARATIVE*.

Now, we shall be speaking about each one of these categories in details. Before that, I feel that it is convenient to explain to you the general outline of these categories.

Nominal clauses have functions that approximate to those of noun phrases: subject, object, complement, appositive, and prepositional complement. Every nominal clause may function in some or all of these functions. Unlike noun phrases, however, nominal clauses may also function as adjective complementation without a preposition.

Functional classes of dependent clauses

ADVERBIAL CLAUSES function mainly as adjuncts or disjuncts. In those functions they are like adverb phrases, but in their potentiality for greater explicitness, they are more often like prepositional phrases.

RELATIVE CLAUSES generally function as restrictive or nonrestrictive Modifiers of noun phrases and are therefore functionally parallel to attributive adjectives.

Comparative clauses together with their correlative element (eg: more, as, -er) are equivalent to degree adverbs.

NOMINAL CLAUSES

Nominal clauses (clauses approximating in function to noun phrases) fall into six major categories:

1. *that-clauses*
2. *interrogative clauses*
3. *exclamative clauses*
4. *nominal relative clauses*
5. *to-infinitive clauses*
6. *ing-clauses*

that-clauses

Nominal that-clauses may function as:

subject: *That we need more hospitals is clear to everyone.*

direct object: *The government denied that the announced numbers of Covid19 infection are untrue.*

subject complement: *My idea is that we stay at home.*

appositive: *We agree to the opinion that we must maintain social distancing.*

adjectival complementation: *It was very obvious that this was the murder weapon.*

that-clauses: notes

1. **that-clause** rarely functions as an indirect object:
 - **The government has given that the poor need health care little consideration.**
2. When the **that-clause** is direct object or subject complement, the conjunction (**that**) is frequently omitted except in formal use, leaving a zero (**that-clause**).
 - I saw (**that**) she had injured her arm. [direct object]
 - I noticed (**that**) he spoke English with Australian accent. [direct object]
 - My assumption is (**that**) the covid-19 will last for a long time. [subject complement]

that-clauses: notes

3. The conjunction (*that*) is similarly omitted when a subject (*that*-clause) is extraposed (*delayed*).
- *That the banks are closed on Saturday is nuisance.*
 - *It is nuisance (that) the banks are closed on*
 - *That you don't speak English is a pity.*
 - *It is a pity (that) you don't speak English.*
 - *That you have been misled is obvious.*
 - *It is obvious (that) you have been misled.*

that-clauses: notes

4. *Extraposition of subject (that-clause) is particularly preferred when the main clause is interrogative, passive, or exclamative. Consider the following examples:*

- *That they cannot afford to rent that flat is possible.*

To form a yes/no question about this sentence we need to extrapose the subject (that-clause):

- *Is it possible that they cannot afford to rent that flat?*

- *It was thought that the cease-fire still held.*

- *How strange it is that the children are so quiet!*

that-retention

The zero-that clause is particularly common when the clause is brief and uncomplicated. Retention of the conjunction that is necessary under the following conditions:

- 1. To clarify whether an adverbial belongs to the main clause or the that-clause. Compare the following:
- They told us, once again, **that the situation was serious.***

The position of (that) after the second comma, rather than before the first comma, in this sentence, is decisive in assigning the parenthetical adverbial to the main clause not to the that-clause. If the conjunction (that) had been omitted, the structure would have been left unclear.

that-retention

2. *When the object that-clause is fronted. Consider the following example:*
 - *I simply don't believe (that) she never said such a thing.*
 - *That she never said such a thing I simply don't believe.*
3. *When a clause or a long phrase intervenes between the verb and the that-clause.*
 - *We decide, in view of the current situation, that we would deliver our lectures online.*