

AMAL MANSOUR. CLAUSES AND COMPLEX SENTENCES. TRANSCRIPT

A complex sentence is made up of an independent clause and a dependent clause linked with a subordinating conjunction.

What is a subordinating conjunction?

These are the words used to link two clauses, and the most common subordinating conjunctions are since, although, if, until, unless, as, after, when, and before.

A clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb. The difference between an independent clause and a dependent clause is that the independent clause is a sentence that can stand alone. It makes sense on its own. For example:

People visit Paris because it is so beautiful.

The subordinating conjunction here is "because." Let's take a look at the first clause: "People visit Paris." This is a complete sentence. It makes sense on its own, so it's an independent clause.

The dependent clause, on the other hand, is a group of words with a subject and a verb, but it cannot stand alone as a sentence because it begins with a subordinating conjunction. The dependent clause here is "because it is so beautiful." This clause cannot form a sentence on its own. It needs another clause to make sense, so it is a dependent clause. It depends on another sentence to make sense.

because it is so beautiful.

When we join these two clauses, we form a complex sentence:

People visit Paris because it is so beautiful.

Now, the second clause makes sense because it is added to an independent clause.

Let's take a look at another example.

My family visited Paris when I was eight.

This is a complex sentence. It contains two clauses. The subordinating conjunction here is "when."

The clause "when I was eight" is dependent. "I was eight" is a sentence on its own, but the subordinating conjunction is the part that makes this sentence dependent. The clause "My family visited Paris" is an independent clause. It can stand alone. You can just say, "My family visited Paris."

Usually, when a dependent clause comes first in a complete sentence, it is followed by a comma.

When I was eight, my family visited Paris.

Here are two simple sentences.

I'll visit Paris.

I'm grown up.

Using a subordinating conjunction to combine these two sentences, we have:

I'll visit Paris when I'm grown up.
When I'm grown up, I'll visit Paris.

Both sentences are correct. When the sentence contains two independent clauses, that means each clause is a sentence on its own, but the subordinating conjunction's job is to make the clause dependent, even if it looks like an independent clause.

A complex sentence is a sentence made up of an independent clause and a dependent clause. The dependent clause begins with a subordinating conjunction and cannot stand alone as a sentence. It needs an independent clause to make sense.