What is Clause?

According to the definition of a Clause - A Clause is a pair or group of words that consists of a subject and a predicate (verb). In other words, All Clauses in English have at least two parts: a noun phrase and a verb phrase.

Noun phrase (subject)	Verb phrase (predicate)
The children	cried.
All the people in the train	were watching.

A Clause is the basic unit of English grammar as it functions as a part or all of a complete sentence.

Types of Clauses:

I. Independent Clause – It is a group of words with a subject and verb that can stand alone and make sense. These Clauses expresses a complete thought. They are also known as Main Clause or Principal Clause.

Examples

- India is a large country.
- India gained independence in 1947.

II. Dependent Clause – It is a group of words with a subject and verb that depends on the Main Clause to give it meaning. These are also known as Subordinate Clause.

Examples of Dependent Clause:

- Compared to Shark, Whale is a large animal - **Compared to Shark** is Dependent Clause, **Whale is a large animal** is Independent Clause.
- India gained independence in 1947 after World War II **- India gained independence in 1947** is an Independent Clause **after World War II** is a Dependent Clause.

Dependent Clause can be called **Adverb** or **Adverbial Clause** if it expresses when, where, why, and how something occurs.

Examples of Adverb or Adverbial Clause:

- **Wherever he goes**, he buys a souvenir - The adverbial clause 'wherever he goes' modifies the verb ‘buys’.
- Jai enjoyed the play more **than I did** - The adverbial clause 'than I did' modifies the adverb ‘more’.

Types of Dependent Clauses - Dependent Clauses can function as nouns, adjectives, and

adverbs:

a) **Noun Clause** - A Noun Clause performs the work of a noun in a sentence. A Noun Clause can replace any noun in a sentence, functioning as a subject, object, or complement. Noun clauses usually begin with words like how, why, what, where, when, who, that, which, whose, whether, etc. Also words like whoever, whenever, whatever and wherever.

Examples of Noun Clause: The words in **Bold** are **Noun Clauses**.

- **Where does John live**?
- I must decide **which career path to take**.
- **What the Punjabi teacher said** was downright inspiring.
- The boy wondered if his parents bought him **what he wanted for Diwali**.

b) **Adjective / Adjectival Clause -** An Adjective Clause takes the place of an adjective in another clause or phrase. Like an adjective, an Adjective Clause modifies a noun or pronoun, answering questions like "which?" or "what kind of? It will contain a subject and verb. It generally begins with a relative pronoun like who, whom, whose, that, or a relative adverb like - which, when, where, or why. **Adjective Clause** is also known as **Relative Clause** when it begins with which, where, when, and why.

Examples of Adjective Clause - The words in **Bold** are **Adjective Clause.**

- My sister, **who is a teacher**, figured it out for me.
- The road **that collapsed in the monsoon storm** will cost lakhs to replace.
- I watched the movie that you told me about - An Adjective clause describes a noun just like an adjective. Which movie? The movie **that you told me about**.

Types of Adjective / Adjectival Clause - Adjectival Clause can be either Restrictive or Non-restrictive.

i) Restrictive Clause – These are also known defining, essential or supplementary Clauses. A restrictive clause provides essential information about the subject of a sentence: it restricts the meaning of a sentence by identifying the specific qualities of the noun or pronoun. A Restrictive Clause begins with a relative pronoun like that or who or sometimes which. A Restrictive clause is not offset with commas.

Examples - The words in **Bold** are **Restrictive Clause.**

- I went for Walking with the girl **who lives next door**. (Identifies the girl).
- The bat **which you cracked** is over 100 years old. (Identifies the bat).

ii) Non-restrictive Clause – They are also known as non-defining, nonessential or supplementary Clauses. Non-restrictive clauses provide descriptive information that isn't essential to the meaning of the sentence. Non-Restrictive Clauses are enclosed with commas. A Non-restrictive Clause begins with a relative pronoun like which or who. It adds extra information about an already-specific noun.

Examples: The words in **Bold** are Non-restrictive Clause.

- I went for Walking with Aria, **who lives next door**.
- The credit card is in my wallet, **which you can find in the almirah drawer**.

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