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# CHAPTER I: NON- FINITE & VERBLESS CLAUSES

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### **I. NON-FINITE CLAUSES**

None – finite clauses are clauses whose verb element is a non-finite verb phrase, *i.e.* consists of non-finite elements such as an –ING participle (*a*), an –ED participle (*b*), or an infinitive (*c* and *d*). Non-finite clauses can be constructed with or without a subject.

### (a) <u>-ING participle clauses</u>:

| With out a subject                  | Easting with an time d. I tolen have a dam damid I appelde? to any a |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Without a subject:                  | <i>Feeling rather tired</i> , I telephoned and said I couldn't come. |  |  |
| With a subject:                     | All the money having been spent, we started looking for work.        |  |  |
| (b) <u>-ED participle cla</u>       | nuses:   |  |  |
| Without a subject:                  | <u>Covered with confusion</u> , she hurriedly left the room.         |  |  |
| With a subject:                     | The job finished, we went home straight away.                        |  |  |
| (c) <u>TO- infinitive clauses</u> : |  |  |  |
| Without a subject:                  | The best thing would be <u>to tell everybody</u> .                   |  |  |
| With a subject:                     | The best thing would be <u>for you to tell everybody</u> .           |  |  |
| (The subject of an infin            | nitive clause is often introduced by FOR.)                           |  |  |
| (d) <b>Bare infinitive</b> :        |  |  |  |
| Without a subject:                  | All I did was <u>tell her the truth</u> .                            |  |  |
| With a subject:                     | Rather than John do it, I'd prefer to do the job myself.             |  |  |
|                                     |  |  |  |

### **II- VERBLESS CLAUSES**

Verbless clauses are clauses which contain no verb element, and often also no subject. They are regarded as clauses because they function in ways, which make them equivalent to finite and non- finite clauses, and because they can be analyzed in terms of one or more clause elements. We can usually assume that a form of the verb BE has been omitted:

> Dozens of tourists were stranded, <u>many of them children</u>. (= many of tourists were children) A sleeping bag under each arm, Mr. Johnson tramped off on his vacation.

(= There was a sleeping bag under each of his arms)

The subject, when omitted, can usually be understood as equivalent to the subject of the main clause:

*The oranges, <u>when ripe</u>, are picked and sorted.* (= when they are ripe) <u>Whether right or wrong</u>, Michael always comes off worst in an argument.

(= Whether he is right or wrong...)

An adjective (or adjective phrase) can function as a verbless clause:

By then nervous, the man opened the letter.

The man, <u>by then nervous</u>, opened the letter.

Long and untidy, his hair waved in the breeze.

An adverb may sometimes replace an adjective functioning as a verbless clause with little difference in meaning:

<u>Nervously/ Nervous</u>, the man opened the letter.

### **III- OMISSION IN NON – FINITE AND VERBLESS CLAUSES**

Non- finite and verbless clauses are mostly used in formal or written styles of English because they are more economical and avoid repetition in comparison with finite subclauses.

| *TO- infinitive clauses | : I hope <u>to be present</u> . (= I hope that I shall be present.) |
|-------------------------|---|
| *-ING clauses:          | Living in the country, we had few social visits.                    |
|                         | (= <i>Since we lived</i> in the country)                            |
| *-ED clauses:           | The man <u>injured</u> by the bullet was taken to the hospital.     |
|                         | (= The man who was injured by the bullet)                           |
|                         | Though defeated, he remained a popular leader.                      |
|                         | (with subordinator 'though')  |
|                         | (= Though he had been defeated)                                     |
| • Verbless clauses:     |   |

• Verbless clauses:

<u>A man of few words</u>, Uncle George declined to express an opinion. (= As he was a man of few words ...)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **EXERCISES**

### NON- FINITE AND VERBLESS CLAUSES

# <u>I/ Underline and classify the function of the non- finite and verbless clauses in the following sentences</u>:

| 1.  | My favourite thing to do is collecting actors' photographs.  |
|-----|--|
| 2.  | You must learn to work hard and to deal with difficulties.   |
| 3.  | She sang when allowed to do so.  |
| 4.  | The long journey over, we relaxed in the warm sunshine.  |
| 5.  | He was a delightful companion, always cheerful and considerate.  |
| 6.  | Having been invited to speak, and then being told to keep silent, I shall never come here again as long as I live. |
| 7.  | Since I have been especially invited to speak, for you now to tell me I can not do so is quite unpardonable.       |
| 8.  | Standing here all day, I see many strange faces.   |
| 9.  | Standing here all day is extremely tiring.   |
| 10  | . My greatest pleasure is to listen to chamber music.  |
| 11. | . To listen to chamber music is my greatest pleasure.  |
| 12  | . To speak in public for the first time can be a terrifying experience.  |
| 13  | . His greatest pleasure, climbing mountains, had to be abandoned.  |
| 14  | . While in the army, he learnt a great deal about electricity.   |
| 15  | . I expect everyone to be punctual this evening.   |
| 16  | . Not feeling very well, I decided to stay at home.  |
| 17. | . They pump waste into the water, killing all the fish.  |
| 18  | . Taken daily, vitamin pills can improve your health.  |

| 19. To turn down the invitation seems rude.                              |
|--|
| 20. The important thing is not to panic.                                 |
| 21. Not very happy with the result, he said nothing to his girlfriend.   |
| 22. His ambition, to be a straight actor, was never fulfilled.           |
| 23. Whether busy or not, you have to come to our party next Sunday.      |
| 24. Although a very pretty girl, she agreed to marry an ugly man.        |
| 25. Walking quickly is difficult for her now.                            |
| 26. The child crying over there always helps me with my housework.       |
| 27. The concert given by the Philharmonic Orchestra was a great success. |
| 28. I will never let you use my bicycle again.                           |
| 29. In the next berth, she could hear her stepmother breathing heavily.  |
|  |
| 30. This duty completed, he had three months' leave.                     |
|  |

# **II**/ The non- finite clauses in the sentences below are open to more than one interpretation. Illustrate this by expanding each dependent clause in two different ways:

I ran over a dog crossing the square.
To see her alone would be very indiscreet.
Though shouting as loudly as possible, the rescuers could not hear us.
Dressed in white robes, we thought the visitors looked like priests in some strange ceremony.
I regret speaking to you so bluntly.
Walking fast after breakfast could be fatal.
He was so ill as to be obliged to give up work altogether.

| 8.  | It will take several hours to finish this.                       |
|-----|--|
| 9.  | Whether here or not, his application will have to be considered. |
| 10. | Always afraid of snakes, we shut every door and window at night. |

# CHAPTER II: ANALYSIS OF SENTENCES

To **analyse** a sentence is to break it up into its component parts and to show the mutual relations of those parts. Each clause contains one finite verb, so if we know the number of finite verbs we know the number of clauses in a complex sentence or a passage.

There are three kinds of sentences:

 + Simple sentences: -The baby cried loudly. -I wrote a letter to my cousin.
+ Compound sentences: The baby cried and shouted his mother's name. I wrote a letter to my cousin, but he didn't reply it.
+ Complex sentences: Although the baby cried loudly, nobody heard him. I wrote a letter to my cousin so that I could tell him about my conclusion.

### **I- ANALYSIS OF SIMPLE SENTENCES**

• A simple sentence is one that has <u>only one finite verb</u>. Every sentence can be divided in two main parts: the subject and the predicate.

- **SUBJECT**: the part of the sentence which names what we speak about. The chief part of the subject may be <u>a noun or a noun equivalent</u>.
- **PREDICATE**: the part of the sentence which makes a statement about the subject. The chief part of the predicate is <u>a finite verb</u> including its complementation or not.

Ex: <u>These roses</u> smell sweet.

### Walking can help improve your health.

#### • <u>Seven sentence patterns of the simple sentence</u>:

| 1. <b>S – V</b>    | We / were dancing.                               |
|--------------------|--|
| 2. $S - V - C$     | We / were / tired.                               |
| 3. $S - V - A$     | We / were dancing / at Queen discotheque.        |
| 4. $S - V - O$     | Who / knows / the answer ?                       |
| 5. $S - V - O - C$ | The director / made / us / disappointed.         |
| 6. $S - V - O - A$ | Please put / this box / under the cupboard.      |
| 7. $S - V - O - O$ | My sister / showed / me / her boyfriend's photo. |

A **compound** sentence is made up of two (or more) co-ordinate clauses joining by conjunction(s). These clauses are of equal importance.

Ex: Bring your book here <u>and</u> open it at page 4; <u>but</u> don't begin reading. In compound sentences the subject or the auxiliary verb, or both, may be omitted in the second sentence if they are the same as those in the first sentence.

<u>Ex</u>: You must come tomorrow and (you must) bring your book with you.

- Number of clauses: 2 (Both are main clauses)
- \* you must come tomorrow \* (you must) bring your book with you
- Connecting word: but

# III- ANALYSIS OF COMPLEX SENTENCES

- A **complex** sentence normally has one independent clause (principle clause) and one or more dependent clauses (subordinate clauses).

E.g.: <u>*Although she was tired*</u>, <u>**she walked up to the third floor**</u> <u>*because she wanted the*</u> <u>*exercise*</u>.

2

3

1,3: dependent clauses

1

**2:** independent clause.

- To analyse a complex sentence is:

- 1) To find out the number of clauses.
- 2) To identity the principal clause and all the subordinate clause(s), then indicate their functions in the sentence.
- 3) To make remarks on the connecting words in order to determine the nature of clauses.

### <u>E.g</u>:

1- The boy, who was crying as if his heart would break, when I spoke to him, said that he was hungry because he had had nothing to eat for two days.

| Clause                      | Kind of<br>clause | Function               | Connecting<br>words |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| The boy said                | Principle         | Makes a statement      |                     |
| who was crying              | Adjective         | Qualifies 'boy'        | who                 |
| as if his heart would break | Adverb            | Modifies 'was crying'  | as if               |
| when I spoke to him         | Adverb            | Modifies 'said'        | when                |
| that he was hungry          | Noun              | Object of 'said'       | that                |
| to eat                      | Non finite        | Postmodifies 'nothing' |                     |
|                             | To-               |                        |                     |