Lecture 02: writing a paragraph
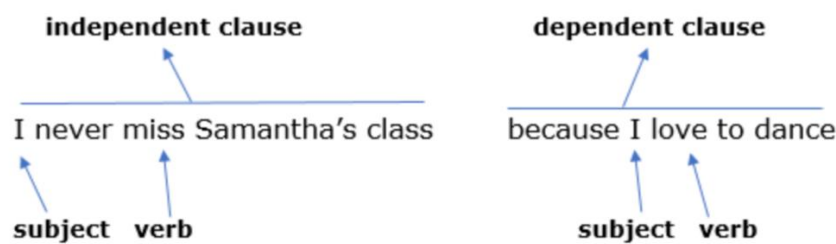
Part one: writing sentences

Introduction

Writing a paragraph requires understanding the sentence structure. You see grammatical items (subject, verb, object, adjective,…) are the building blocks of writing when put together they make either meaningful clauses (independent clauses) or meaningless clauses, that need another clause to make sense, (dependent clauses). When these clauses conjunct together using transitions/ conjunctions, they make full sentences. Finally, when sentences are put together you end up with a paragraph.

Clauses

A clause is a part of a sentence that functions dependently or independently as a complete thought. Clauses contain a subject (which is the actor) and a verb (which is the action the subject performs).

There are dependent clauses (main clause) and independent clauses (subordinate clauses)

Main clause: The main clause of a sentence contains a subject and a verb. It can stand alone as its own sentence or can be combined with a subordinate clause to provide more information.

eg: Go is an efficient programming language developed by Google, and it works well for distributed systems

Subordinate clause: A subordinate clause is a secondary clause that cannot stand alone so it needs to be connected to the main clause using a subordinate conjunction like "because," "as," or "while."

eg: the experts resorted to rewriting the codes because they wanted to improve the system.

Subordinate clauses can also function as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb clause meaning that they act like nouns/adjectives or adverbs. These clauses are connected to the main clause using a relative pronoun like "who," "whom," "whose," "which," or "that," or by using a relative adverb such as "when," "where," or "why."

eg: the person who writes codes for computers is the programmer.

Relative Pronouns

	Referring to a human	Referring to something other than a human	Possessive
Restrictive	who, whom, that	which, that	whose
Nonrestrictive (with commas)	who, whom	which	whose

Underline the subordinate clause in the following examples:

Whoever works hard, will succeed.

The valedictorian is the student who ranked the first.

When everyone gathered around, we started working on our project.

The supervisor gave a speech while we waited for the results.

<u>**Sentences**</u>

Sentences consist of independent and dependent clauses that describe a subject, where they are, the mood, and the action they are taking. A sentence contains at least one clause. There are four types of sentences:

1. **A simple sentence** consists of one independent clause

eg: The train is late

2. **A compound sentence** contains at least **two independent clauses**. These two independent clauses can be combined with a **comma and a coordinating conjunction**, with a **semicolon**, or with a **conjunctive adverb**.

eg: <u>Mary and Samantha left on the bus before I arrived</u>, so <u>I did not see them at the bus station</u>.

<u>Mary and Samantha left on the bus before I arrived</u>; <u>I did not see them at the bus station</u>.

<u>Mary and Samantha left on the bus before I arrived</u>; therefore, <u>I did not see them at the bus station</u>.

3. **A complex sentence** contains at least **one independent clause** and at least **one dependent clause**. Dependent clauses can refer to the subject (who, which) the sequence/time (since, while), or the causal elements (because, if) of the independent clause.

eg: <u>Joe realized that the train was late</u> <u>while he was waiting at the train station</u>.

If a sentence begins with a dependent clause, note the comma after this clause. If, on the other hand, the sentence begins with an independent clause, there is not a comma separating the two clauses/

eg: <u>While he waited at the train station</u>, <u>Joe realized that the train was late</u>.

4. **A compound-complex** sentence contains at least **two independent clauses** and at least **one dependent clause**.

eg: <u>I always try to develop a skill</u>, so <u>I do research</u> <u>Whenever I find time</u>,

Examples:

Underline the clauses and say which types of sentence is each of the following:

A cloud security strategy includes cyber security services that help to protect an organization's entire cloud deployment.

In recent years, phishing attacks have only grown more sophisticated

Python is an easy to use programming language, but C++ language is more efficient and faster because it is statically typed

The latest generation of cyber threats uses large-scale, multi-vectors attacks, and makes advanced threat prevention solutions a priority.

Web applications, which are directly connected to the Internet, are targets for threat.

Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions:

Coordination means combining two sentences or ideas that are of equal value. **Coordinating conjunctions** connect **independent clauses**. There are seven main coordinating conjunctions in English, which form the acronym, FANBOYS (For And Nor But Or Yet So)

Notice in the examples in the table below that a coma is used before the coordinating conjunction.

Conjunction	Function	Example
for	connects a reason to a result	teachers value Problem solving skill for it's important in the daily life
and	connects equal and similar ideas	Mike writes codes and Carl runs them
nor	connects two negative ideas	Without internet, students can't study properly nor can researchers write papers
but	connects equal but different ideas	Software developers create software programs but computer hardware engineers design computer components
or	connects two equal choices	Do you prefer to paraphrase or to make a summary?
yet	connects equal and contrasting ideas	The program is not ready yet
so	connects a result to a reason	The app keeps crashing so let's restart the device

Conjunctive adverbs:

A conjunctive adverb is a linking word that demonstrates a relationship between two clauses. Conjunctive adverbs are usually used to link two independent clauses.

Conjunctive adverbs are preceded by a semi colon (or a full stop and capital letter) and followed by a comma.

eg: John tried to run the program; however, it crashed.

Function	Conjunctive Adverb	Example
Addition	also, furthermore, moreover, besides	Alicia was late for class and stuck in traffic; furthermore, her shoe heel had broken and she had forgotten her lunch.
Comparison	similarly, likewise	Recycling aluminum cans is beneficial to the environment; similarly, reusing plastic bags and switching off lights reduces waste.
Contrast	instead, however, conversely	Most people do not walk to work; instead, they drive or take the train.
Emphasis	namely, certainly, indeed	The Siberian tiger is a rare creature; indeed, there are fewer than five hundred left in the wild.
Cause and Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, thus	I missed my train this morning; consequently, I was late for my meeting.
Time	finally, next, subsequently, then	Tim crossed the barrier, jumped over the wall, and pushed through the hole in the fence; finally, he made it to the station.

Subordinating conjunctions:

Subordination means combining two sentences or ideas in a way that makes one more important than the other, Subordinating conjunctions join a **subordinate clause** to a **main clause** and establishes a relationship between the two.

If the subordinating conjunction is in the middle of the sentence, do not use any punctuation mark. If it is at the beginning of the sentence use a comma to separate the independent clause from the dependent one.

There are many subordinating clauses, but here are some of the most common:

After, although, as much as/as soon as/as long as, as though, because, before, how, if, in order to/in order that, once, since, than, that, though, unless, until, when/whenever, where/wherever, whether, while

Function	Subordinating Conjunction	Example
Concession	although, while, though, whereas, even though	Sarah completed her report even though she had to stay late to get it done.
Condition	if, unless, until	Until we know what is causing the problem, we will not be able to fix it.
Manner	as if, as, though	Everyone in the conference room stopped talking at once, as though they had been stunned into silence.
Place	where, wherever	Rita is in San Jose where she has several important client meetings.
Reason	because, since, so that, in order that	Because the air conditioning was turned up so high, everyone in the office wore sweaters.
Time	after, before, while, once, when	After the meeting had finished, we all went to lunch.

The following transitions link one main idea to another separated by a semi-colon or full-stop. When the transition word is at the beginning of the sentence, it should be followed by a comma.

Among other functions, they can signal cause and effect or sequencing (see examples in the table below).

Function	Transitions
Additional comments or ideas	additionally; also; moreover; furthermore; again; further; then; besides; too; similarly; correspondingly; indeed; regarding.
Alternatives	whereas; conversely; in comparison; by contrast; another view is…; alternatively; although; otherwise; instead.
Analysing results	therefore; accordingly; as a result of; the result is/results are; the consequence is; resulting from; consequently; it can be seen; evidence illustrates that; because of this; thus; hence; for this reason; owing to x; this suggests that; it follows that; otherwise; in that case; that implies;

Cause / Reason	as a result of; because (**mid-sentence only**)
Compare	compared with; in the same way; likewise
Contrast	by contrast; although; compared with; conversely; despite; however, nevertheless; yet
Effect / Result	As a result; therefore; thus
Emphasising earlier statements	however; nonetheless; furthermore; in the final analysis; despite x; notwithstanding x; in spite of x; while x may be true, nonetheless although; though; after all; at the same time; even if x is true; count
Introducing examples	for example; for instance; namely; such as; as follows; as exemplified by; such as; including; especially; particularly; in particular; notably; mainly;
Re-phrasing	in other terms; rather; or; better; in view of this; in contrast
Sequencing	first (ly); second (ly); third (ly); another; additionally; finally moreover; also; subsequently; eventually; next; then
Summary or Conclusion	in conclusion; therefore; to conclude; on the whole; hence; thus to summarise; altogether; overall; …following the research of…after analysis

Academic writing rules:

Simple sentences make your writing more academic and clear for the reader.

Using different types of sentences give varity to your writing.

In academic writing, every sentence you write must be grammatically complete.

Ensure the subject-verb agreement in your writing.

Resources:

Academic writing: sentence level, n.d, Retrieved from

https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/article/downloads/sentence.pdf

(2022). Grammar: Conjunctions. academicguides.waldenu.edu.
https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/grammar/conjunctions

Activity 01: underline the clauses in each sentence and write **MC** for main clause and **SC** for subordinate clause.

1. data scientists program an algorithm to complete a task and give it positive or negative cues as it works out how to complete a task

2. the performance of algorithms typically improves when they train on labeled data sets

3. as big data continues to expand and grow, the market demand for data scientists will increase

4. since deep learning and machine learning tend to be used interchangeably, it is worth noting the nuances between the two.

5. each generation of cyber threats made previous cyber security solutions less effective

6. Speech recognition is a capability which uses natural language processing (NLP) to translate human speech into a written format

Activity 02: fill in the gaps with the correct conjunction (pay attention to the punctuation).

especially   also   when   therefore   besides   since   as   which   although   however   because

1. …………. analyzing data, data analysts are responsible for implementing and maintaining databases
2. Machine learning is important…………. it gives enterprises a view of trends in customer behavior and business operational patterns
3. ……... machine learning technology has developed, it has certainly made our lives easier…………. implementing it in businesses has also raised a number of ethical concerns about AI technologies
4. AI surpassing human intelligence in the near future. Technological singularity is………….. referred to as strong AI or super intelligence.
5. ……………python uses simple syntax and has a large library of toolkits, it needs a lot of memory space.
6. Internet browsers can disable JavaScript code from running.…………. JavaScript is used to code pop-up ads that in some cases can contain malicious content
7. ………… combined with Node.js, programmers can use JavaScript to produce web content on the server before a page is sent to the browser
8. Computer vision, ……………… is an AI technology, enables computers to derive meaningful information from digital images, videos, and other visual inputs
9. Online chatbots are replacing human agents along the customer journey…………….. limiting job opportunities in any field.
10. Many of today's leading companies……………….Facebook, Google and Uber, make machine learning a central part of their operations

Activity03: write four sentences

Simple sentence: …………………………………………………………………………………

Compound sentence: ……………………………………………………………………………………….

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Complex sentence: ………………………………………………………………………………….

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Compound complex:……………………………………………………………………………………….

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