

Linguistic Principles of English Grammar

Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

Hanyang-Oregon TESOL Program 2007

Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

- Big Idea #1

Every language has ways of combining clauses to express complex conceptual scenes.

Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

- Most clause combinations involve one dependent and one independent clause.

She ran out, slamming the door behind her.

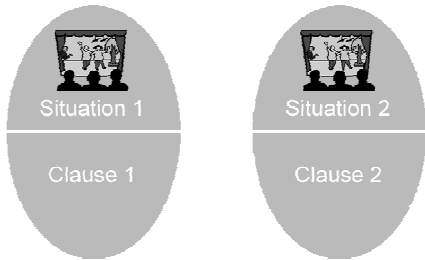
Independent (Main) Clause
Dependent Clause

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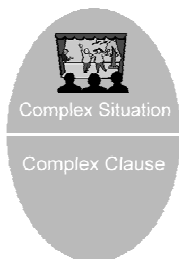
- Big Idea #2

The more integrated the events are in a complex conceptual scene, the more grammatically integrated the structures that express them are.

Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions



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Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

One event . . . conceptual integration . . . Two distinct
 high low events

One Clause High degree of grammatical integration ("tight")	Two independent Clauses No grammatical integration ("loose")
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One event . . . conceptual integration . . . Two distinct
 high low events

Compound Verbs: "kick-start" "stir-fry" "force-feed"	Serial Verbs: "Run go get . . ." "She made him dance."	Manipulative complements (cont.) "Because . . ." "If . . ." "In order to . . ."	Two independent Clauses No grammatical integration ("loose")
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Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

. . . conceptual integration . . . Two distinct
 high low events

Modality/aspectual complements: "start to . . ." "plan to . . ." "manage to . . ."	Utterance/cognition complements: "say that . . ." "know that . . ."	Adverbial clauses: "Because . . ." "If . . ." "In order to . . ."	Two independent Clauses No grammatical integration ("loose")
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Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

–Compound verbs

- Kick-start
- Stir-fry
- Force-feed

Two verb roots compounded and acting as a single verb.

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–Serial verbs

Run go get me a newspaper.



A construction with two or more verb roots that are neither compounded, nor are members of separate clauses.

Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

- The Functional Typology of Verbs in Dependent Clauses:
 - Clausal Arguments
 - Relative Clauses
 - Adverbial Clauses

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-Clausal Arguments

Eating peanuts irritates me.
Subject Object



A clause that functions as an argument of some other clause.

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-Clausal Arguments

Matrix Clause:



The main clause of which the second clause is a part — the “net” that holds the second clause.

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-Clausal Arguments

Bill wants you to eat guck.

Matrix (main) clause



clausal
argument
(O)

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–Relative Clauses

[The man Bill saw] went home.

A clause that modifies a noun.

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–Adverbial Clauses

When Cobb went home, his mother saw him.

Adverbial clause

*A clause that modifies a verb phrase
or a whole clause.*

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–Coordination

Napoleon called home and his brother ate nachos.

C1

C2

*Syntactic linking of two clauses of
equal grammatical status.*
