Linguistic Principles of English Grammar

Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

Hanyang-Oregon TESOL Program 2007

• Big Idea #1

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

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

She ran out, slamming the door behind her.

Independent (Main) Clause

Dependent Clause
Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One event</th>
<th>. . . conceptual integration . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two distinct events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One Clause</th>
<th>Two independent Clauses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High degree of grammatical integration (&quot;tight&quot;)</td>
<td>No grammatical integration (&quot;loose&quot;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Compound verbs: |
| "kick-start" "Run go get . . ." "She made him dance." |
| "stir-fry" "force-feed" |

| Serial verbs: |
| (cont.) |
| Two independent Clauses |
| No grammatical integration ("loose") |

| Manipulative complements: |
| "say that . . ." |
| "know that . . ." |

| Modality/aspectual complements: |
| "Because . . ." |
| "If . . ." |
| "In order to . . ." |

| Adverbial clauses: |
| "start to . . ." |
| "plan to . . ." |
| "manage to . . ." |

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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.

— 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.

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• The Functional Typology of Verbs in Dependent Clauses:
  – Clausal Arguments
  – Relative Clauses
  – Adverbial Clauses
Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

–Clausal Arguments

Eating peanuts irritates me.

Subject: me.  
Object: peanuts

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

—— ——

the the the the

net net net net

that holds that holds that holds that holds

the second clause.

—— ——

the the the the

net net net net

that holds that holds that holds that holds

the second clause.

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net net net net

that holds that holds that holds that holds

the second clause.

—— ——

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that holds that holds that holds that holds

the second clause.
Introduction to Multi-Clause Constructions

–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.