Understanding English Grammar: A Linguistic Introduction

Additional Exercises for Chapter 14: Clause Combining

1. Types of dependent clauses

In the following quotes, underline the dependent clauses. Some clauses may need to be underlined twice, e.g., 'I want you to finish eating your beans,' or even three times. Identify the beginning of each clause with a number (see the example below), then answer the questions below for each clause (inclusive lists of possible answers are provided):

A. What structural type of subordinate clause is it? (non-finite, subjunctive, past-participial, present-participial, finite)

B. What functional type is it? (Clausal Subject, Clausal Object, Subject Complement, Object Complement, Adverbial Clause, Relative Clause)

C. For each clause you have labeled a Clausal Subject or Clausal Object, indicate the type of Complementizer employed (that, WH-, 0).

D. For each clause you have labeled Adverbial, indicate its semantic function. (TIME, LOCATION, MANNER, PURPOSE, REASON, CONDITIONAL, CONCESSIONAL)

E. For each clause you have labeled a Relative Clause, indicate the grammatical relation of the "R-element" in the relative clause (Subject, Object, Indirect Object, Complement of preposition, Possessor).

Example:

1
Because I have given you a complex assignment, and being a

2
responsible English teacher, I am forcing myself

3
to come up with an example that has three formal and

4
three functional types of dependent clause in it.

1. A. finite. B. Adverbial. D. REASON.

2. A. participial. B. Adverbial. D. REASON

3. A. infinitive. B. Clausal Object.

Helpful hints: Do not consider activity nominalizations other than present participles to be heads of dependent clauses. For example, "After the destruction of the city . . ." would not be an adverbial clause, but "After destroying the city . . ." would be.

Dependent clauses may be conjoined. Treat conjoined dependent clauses as separate clauses even if they share a subordinator. For example, "When I see you walking through the forest, and the trees are in bloom . . . " these are two TIME adverbial clauses ("When I see you . . . and when the trees . . .")

a. Thou hast most traitorously corrupted the youth of the realm in erecting a grammar school. 

*William Shakespeare*

b. At painful times, when composition is impossible and reading is not enough, grammars and dictionaries are excellent for distraction. *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

c. You can be a little ungrammatical if you come from the right part of the country. *Robert Frost*

d. As far as I'm concerned, "whom" is a word that was invented to make everyone sound like a butler. *Calvin Trillin*

e. Commas in The New Yorker fall with the precision of knives in a circus act, outlining the victim. *E. B. White*

f. When I hear the hypercritical quarrel about grammar and style, the position of the particles, etc., etc., I see that they forget that the first requisite and rule is that expression shall be vital and natural. *Henry David Thoreau*

g. Those to whom the King had entrusted me, observing how ill I was clad, ordered a tailor to come next morning, and take my measure for a suit of clothes. *Jonathan Swift*

h. The writer who neglects punctuation, or mispunctuates, might be misunderstood. For the want of merely a comma, it often occurs that an axiom appears a paradox, or that a sarcasm is converted into a sermonoid. *Edgar Allan Poe*
2. Types of Complement Taking Predicators (CTPs)

Think of examples that include each of the following types of CTPs. If you believe any of your examples could be controversial, you may want to explain your reasoning. Try to come up with examples that have not been mentioned in Chapter 14. This will not be possible in every case however. Please circle the CTP and underline the Clausal Object:

a. Manipulative, implicative:

b. Manipulative, non-implicative:

c. Manipulative, negative-implicative:

d. Aspect/modality, implicative:

e. Aspect/modality, non-implicative:

f. Aspect/modality, negative-implicative:

g. Aspect/modality, semi-implicative:

h. Cognitive/utterance, implicative:

i. Cognitive/utterance, non-implicative:

j. Cognitive/utterance, negative-implicative:

k. Mandative, implicative:
3. Semantic relations between coordinate clauses

What is the semantic relationship between the two coordinate clauses in the following sentences? In each example the conjunction is italicized. The first example is done for you:

a. The police officer jumped on his motorbike and started off after the thieves. Answer: The two clauses describe events that are related in immediate temporal succession.

b. The police officer polished his motorbike, and changed the oil.

c. I like to go fishing, and I dislike working.

b. I like to play volleyball, but I have a bad back.

c. He admires her, and loves her deeply.

d. He admires her, but loves her deeply.

e. He admires her, or loves her deeply.
4. Identifying dependent clauses

In the following excerpt (from Tolkien 1973:76 [1937]), underline all of the dependent clauses and number them. For each clause you have identified, indicate its formal and functional type. Remember that there may be multiple dependency, so some clauses may be underlined more than once. The first example is done for you:

1. When Bilbo opened his eyes, he wondered if he had; for it was just as dark as with them shut.

... Very slowly he got up and groped about on all fours, till he touched the wall of the tunnel; but neither up nor down it could he find anything: nothing at all, no sign of goblins, no sign of dwarves. His head was swimming, and he was far from certain even of the direction they had been going in when he had his fall. He guessed as well as he could, and crawled along for a good way, till suddenly his hand met what felt like a tiny ring of cold metal lying on the floor of the tunnel.

Dependent clause 1: Finite, adverbial.

5. Relative clauses

Each of the following examples contains one or more structures that might be analyzed as relative clauses. For each example:

A. Underline the relative clause(s).

B. Circle the R-element (if it is a gap, put an X in the position where it occurs)

C. Indicate what structural type it is (non-finite, subjunctive, past-participial, present participial, finite).

The first example is done for you:

a. Love is disarmed that \( \times \) meets with too much ease. Finite.

b. You're the only thing that matters

c. We did not see him as the spineless vicar that Fielding turned him into in Shamela.

d. I had a great opinion of my person and air, which had been remarked by many ladies whom my vanity thought to be very good judges of these outward advantages.

e. Of all those passions which may be said to tyrannize over the heart of man, love is not only the most violent, but the most persuasive.

f. Is there some way to be found out for my escape, without danger to yourself?

D. Finally, discuss the following examples in terms of the definition of relative clause given in
Chapter nine. Are there any relative clauses in these examples? Are there any clauses that seem like
relative clauses, but aren't really? What seems to be unusual about them?

g. His protestations of devotion in the trial scene are, in our opinion, genuine, as is his confession that
his affair with the Countess is platonic.

h. I am divided, torn from my parents, forced hither with an impious black design to have my
innocence and youth become the sacrifice of brutal violence.

i. This principle may ground some optimism that the account can be usefully pursued.
(Example from Sainsbury, R. M. 2002. Reference and anaphora. Philosophical Perspectives 16,
Language and Mind. 43-72, brought to my attention by Philippe De Brabanter).

j. As a group we welcome the fact that there is a provision for travellers in Harlow on the two
permanent sites.