15
DEPENDENT CLAUSES

1   Note that other alternatives than those shown here may be possible:

   a.   I sat awake at night reading biographies of famous grammarians.

   b.   I'll ask Marcel if/whether they are here.

   c.   When we dined with Taylor the following Tuesday we turned out to be the only guests.

   d.   Mark didn't care since he was confident he could face anything.

   e.   They were waiting for their bags at the airport when Chris felt a tap on his shoulder.

   f.   "I wouldn't dream of it," said Sarah, who was struggling with a huge suitcase.

   g.   When they arrived at the quayside the boat was already half-way across the bay.

2   A real-life Robinson Crusoe (a) **who** has spent 20 years on a desert island says he's glad he doesn't have to worry about terrorist attacks. Former millionaire David Glasheen moved to the idyllic Restoration Island, (b) **which** is located off North East Australia, after losing his fortune in 1997. The ex-gold mining tycoon and property magnate, (c) **who** at his most successful was worth about $27 million, now lives in a wooden beach shack with his loyal dog Polly (d) **who/which** keeps him company. Self-sufficient David added there is nowhere (e) **that/Ø** he'd rather be than on his "heaven on earth" natural paradise. "When I came here I was sick of money – (f) **which** is what makes people sick – and my marriage had broken apart."

When David first arrived he swapped his former luxury home for his a wooden beach shack (g) **which/that** dates back to pre-WWII. He has a limited supply of electricity, (h) **which** relies on solar panels and a backup generator – and limited running water, (i) **which** was only installed a few years ago. There is an internet connection (j) **which/that**

allows him to follow the news, keep in touch with the outside world and watch Britain's Got Talent videos on YouTube, (k) **which** is his guilty pleasure. He travels to Cairns once a year to do his grocery shopping, (l) **which** includes essentials like olive oil and rice and luxuries like gummy bears and mars bars. But aside from that annual trip to the civilization, the castaway survives on vegetables (m) **which/that** he grows himself and fish, crabs and shrimp (n) **which/that** he catches from the ocean.

Reasons for choices: in each case where *who* is chosen, the antecedent is personal, except in (d), where it is a dog, thus allowing the choice between *who* and *which*. Some of the relative clauses with *who* and *which* are non-restrictive, as marked with commas or dashes, so *that* and Zero are not alternatives. In the cases where both *which* and *that* are possible, we have restrictive relative clauses with non-personal antecedents.

3   The type and syntactic function of the italicized dependent clauses:

a. The great oak door was opened *before we had a chance to knock.* → finite adverbial clause functioning as a circumstantial adverbial (time).

b. The door was opened by a tall elegant man *dressed in a tail coat and black tie.* → non-finite *-ed* participle clause functioning as postmodifier of *man.*

c. He informed us *that he was Adams, the butler.* → finite nominal *that*-clause functioning as direct object.

d. He then escorted us to the morning room, *where we were greeted by a large log fire.* → finite relative clause functioning as postmodifier of *morning room.*

e. Above the fireplace was a picture of a man *who I presumed was Hamilton's grandfather.* → finite restrictive relative clause functioning as postmodifier of *man.*

f. The one sculpture on display was of a Greek figure *throwing a discus.* → non-finite *-ing* participle clause functioning as postmodifier of *figure.*

g. *Looking around*, I reflected *that only the telephone belonged to the present century.* → (i) non-finite *-ing* participle functioning as circumstantial adverbial (time); (ii) finite nominal *that*-clause functioning as direct object.

h. Hamilton entered the room *as a gale might hit an unhappy seaside town.* → finite adverbial clause functioning as circumstantial adverbial (manner).

i. We took our places around an oak table *that could comfortably have seated twenty.* → finite restrictive relative clause functioning as postmodifier of *table.*

j. Hamilton waited for *the butler to go round the table and fill the glasses.* → non-finite infinitive clause functioning as direct object of the prepositional verb wait *for.*

k. He looked round at the butler *to confirm his statement.* → non-finite infinitive clause functioning as circumstantial adverbial (purpose).

4 Explain the difference in form and meaning between the members of each pair.

a. 1 I had a visit from my brother, who surprised me.
   2 I had a visit from my brother, which surprised me.

   The relative pronouns differ: *who* refers back to *brother,* so it introduces a non-restrictive relative clause that postmodifies *brother. Which* has the preceding clause as its antecedent, so it introduces a sentential relative clause that functions as a stance adverbial. Sentence (a1) means that "my brother surprised me" and (a2) means "the fact that my brother visited surprised me".

b. 1 She didn't know that they had left.
   2 She didn't know whether they had left.

   Both sentences contain nominal dependent clauses functioning as direct object, but the subordinating conjunctions are different. *That* introduces a nominal *that*-clause, while *whether* introduces an indirect question. Sentence (b1) means that "they had left, and she was not aware of it"; in (b2) it is uncertain whether they had left or not, because she did not know.

c. 1 You should tell us if we are meeting your needs.
   2 If we are meeting your needs, you should tell us.

   In sentence (c1) the clause starting with *if* functions as direct object. It is an indirect question (nominal dependent clause), where *if* might be replaced by *whether.* In (c2) *if* introduces an adverbial clause functioning as circumstantial adverbial (condition). The meaning of (c1) is "you ought to inform us whether or not we are meeting your needs". Sentence (c2) means "in case we are meeting your needs, you can tell us so".

d. 1 They know that the neighbour was here earlier.
   2 They know because the neighbour was here earlier.

   The dependent clause in sentence (d1) is a nominal *that*-clause functioning as direct object. The dependent clause in (d2) is an adverbial clause functioning as adverbial (reason). Thus there is no direct object in (d2); *know* is used intransitively. Sentence (d1) means "the neighbour was here earlier, and they know that". Sentence (d2) means "the reason why they know something is that their neighbour was here earlier; maybe he told them something".

e. 1 Sitting on the lawn, he saw a rare bird.
    2 He saw a rare bird sitting on the lawn.
    Both sentences contain a non-finite *-ing* clause: In (e1) it is placed before the main clause and in (e2) it is placed after the main clause. In initial position it functions as an adverbial: "While he was sitting on the lawn he saw a rare bird". In end position it functions as a postmodifier of *bird*: "He saw a rare bird which was sitting on the lawn". Thus in (e1) *he* was sitting on the lawn (because an adverbial *-ing* clause shares the subject with the main clause), and in (e2) the *bird* was sitting on the lawn.

5 Read the following text and answer the questions below:

It's nice *to have a friendly work environment*. But in some cases, "work friends" shouldn't be Facebook friends. Why not? A status update *published on a Tuesday night* can easily turn into office gossip on Wednesday morning. Even worse: Co-workers and managers could take you less seriously, you could be skipped over for promotions, and you might find yourself first in line *when layoffs occur,* all based on your activity on Facebook.

In a new report conducted by my company, Millennial Branding, and Identified.com, we gathered information from 4 million Gen-Y Facebook profiles *to see how their personal and professional online identities overlap*. We discovered *that, to some degree, most users limit what details of their professional lives get onto Facebook*. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Gen-Y Facebook users don't list their employer in their profiles, some likely out of worries *that they could be easily searchable by co-workers* – a situation *they'd prefer to avoid*.

There's even reason to be careful about *friending* people *you don't work with right now*. The data shows that young people are job hoppers. They spend just over two years at their first corporate job before moving on. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the average American will have about nine jobs between the ages of 18 and 32. All of this job hopping increases the likelihood that a Facebook friend will someday be a colleague at work – perhaps even an in-office rival, or the person who decides *whether you get a promotion*. (*Time Magazine,* excerpts)

a. *To have a friendly work environment:* non-finite, infinitive clause. *Published on a Tuesday night*: non-finite, past participle clause. *When lay-offs occur*: finite adverbial clause.

b. *To see how their personal and professional online identities overlap:* infinitive clause functioning as circumstantial adverbial (purpose). *That, to some degree, most users limit what details of their professional lives get onto Facebook*: nominal *that*-clause,

direct object. *that they could be easily searchable by co-workers*: nominal *that*-clause functioning as apposition (of *worries*). *They'd prefer to avoid*: restrictive relative clause functioning as postmodifier of *situation*.

c. The *-ing* form must be used because it comes after a preposition (*about*).

d. The dependent clause could be introduced by *who* or *that*, since it is a restrictive relative clause with a personal antecedent (*people*) where the pronoun functions as direct object in the relative clause. *Whom* is also an alternative, although the style of the text makes this formal choice less likely.

e. *That young people are job hoppers*: nominal clause, direct object. *That the average...32*: nominal clause, direct object. *That a Facebook friend ... work*: nominal clause, apposition (and thus part of the direct object along with *the likelihood*).

f. A nominal clause, indirect question, which functions as direct object (in the relative clause starting with *who*).

6   Findings from the Corpus of Contemporary American English at http://corpus.byu.edu/:

a. Most of the examples of *whom* follow a preposition; the two that do not follow a preposition function as direct object in the relative clause. This is in line with the rules given in 15.3.1B. *Whom* is most frequent in the academic part of the corpus and least in the spoken.

b. *Because* is more than twice as frequent as *since* in COCA. *Because* could have been used in the following example: *But the opening of the Erie Canal changed that,* **since** *goods from Europe no longer needed to go through Pittsburgh,* but not when *since* has temporal meaning, as in *It probably hadn't been more than seven or eight years* **since** *this man had been in high school himself.* Furthermore, *since* does not seem to be a good alternative to *because* as the answer to a *why*-question, as in *The next year, an election year, it was fifty-six percent. Why?* **Because** *Republicans in Congress changed their behavior.* (Besides, *since* cannot replace *because* in the complex preposition *because of*, but *because of* does not introduce clauses.)

c. *Start *ing* is much more common in this corpus. The five most common verbs following *start to* are *finish, get, see, feel, think* (and since *finish* probably functions as a noun in most of the examples of *start to finish*, we add the sixth: *look*). The five most common *-ing* verbs following *start* are *talking, thinking, looking, getting, making*.

d. There are many hits for the word *that* following a preposition. In most of the cases *that* is a demonstrative determiner or pronoun (and thus does not introduce a *that*-clause).

An exception is *in that* meaning "because", as in *These data are most often rather bland **in that** not all analytical persons are good students*. Another is *except that*, as in *The number would be far higher **except that** up to 60 percent of sports concussions go unreported*.