

Adding Clauses to Sentences

Certain collections of words, such as phrases and clauses, can work just like single words that have certain functions in the sentence. For example, a noun, which names a person, place, or thing, can be just a single word. However, a clause, which is a whole group of words, can function just like a single-word noun. Clauses can be substituted in a sentence for a whole range of single-word nouns, pronouns, adjectives, or adverbs. Note that a clause is defined as a group of related words with its own subject and verb.

The following examples show a single word in the first sentence, and a clause that functions just like that single word in the second sentence.

1. The contract is beneficial to the company. (A noun is the subject of the sentence)
2. That he has already signed the contract is beneficial to the company. (A clause, functioning as a noun, is the subject of the sentence.)
3. She sold the car. (A pronoun is the subject of the sentence)
4. The salesperson who looked as if she needed more sales sold the car. (A clause, functioning as a noun, is the subject of the sentence.)
5. The company recommended that. (A pronoun is the direct object; the pronoun could refer to something mentioned in another sentence)
6. The company recommended that Frances leave the country immediately. (A relative clause is the direct object)
7. Send the message to the manager. (A noun is an object of a preposition)
8. Send the message to whoever will be in the office after lunch. (A clause, functioning as a noun, is an object of a preposition)
9. Let's work on a large project. (A single-word adjective)
10. Let's work on a project that we can use to show the skills we've developed. (A clause functions as an adjective to describe "project.")
11. Tomorrow she will get a raise. (A single-word adverb)
12. As soon as she persuades me, she will get a raise. (A clause functions as an adverb)
13. Harry, a teacher, plans to retire. (A single-word noun appositive)
14. Harry, who has been my mentor and has given me a broad education, plans to retire. (A clause functions as a noun appositive)

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