Lesson 22: TRUNKS & CLAUSES

What is a CLAUSE?

Definition: A CLAUSE is a group of words that has a **subject** and a **predicate**, but which also has a **CLAUSE word**. In this example, **when** is the CLAUSE word.

Example:
When I was a young girl, I went dancing every Saturday night.

> ✺ A CLAUSE looks like a sentence (TRUNK) but it has a CLAUSE word (CW) at the front.

What is the purpose of a CLAUSE?

The purpose of a CLAUSE is to add more information to a TRUNK. In the next three lessons, we will look at three different types of CLAUSEs. They can give additional information in three different ways.

1. **Shifter CLAUSEs** give more information about the entire TRUNK, so they can shift from the front of the sentence to the end.
   Example: **When we were children,** we believed in Santa Claus.

2. **Describer CLAUSEs** give information about one word in the TRUNK.
   Example: The woman **who is talking to my father** is a doctor.

3. **Completer CLAUSEs** complete the idea of the TRUNK.
   Example: I hope **that you're feeling better soon**.

CLAUSE words

Definition: A **CLAUSE word** is a word that introduces a CLAUSE and tells you how the CLAUSE is related to the TRUNK. There are many CLAUSE words. Some are used especially for **shifter** CLAUSEs. Others are used especially for **completer** CLAUSEs or **describer** CLAUSEs. We will learn more about CLAUSE words in the next three lessons.
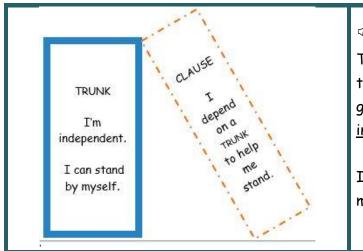
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SHIFTER CLAUSE WORDS	DESCRIBER CLAUSE WORDS	COMPLETER CLAUSE WORDS
after	that	ask
although	where	know
because	which	see
before	who	tell
even though	whom	that
if	whose	wonder
since (a past time)		
since (because)		
unless		
when		
whenever		
while		

*These words may also be used in other ways.
They are clause words only when they begin a clause.

We will study each type of CLAUSE in the next three lessons. You will find that you already know how to use most of them. But first, let's do a little practice to make sure that you understand the difference between a TRUNK and a CLAUSE.

Is it a TRUNK or a CLAUSE?

TRUNK

I'm independent.

I can stand by myself.

CLAUSE

I depend on a TRUNK to help me stand.

☞ In this book we use the word TRUNK for a simple sentence that can stand on its own.. Many grammar books call a TRUNK an independent CLAUSE.

In this book the word "CLAUSE" means a dependent CLAUSE.

Often students put a period after a CLAUSE and believe it is a TRUNK. Your teacher will call this a "fragment" because it isn't really a complete sentence. The test for a TRUNK is a yes/no sentence.

Look at these sentences:

Children like to listen to fairytales. Because children enjoy living in their imaginations. Sometimes the imaginary and the real seem the same. Until they get older.

Children like to listen to fairytales.

> 1. Find the X-word and the Subject:
>   S   VxO
>   Children like to listen to fairytales.
> 2. Make a Y/N question:
>
>   *Do children like to listen to fairytales?*
> 3. Are all of the words used in the question?
>
>   yes
> 4. Are there any words left over?
>
>   no
> 4. This is a good TRUNK.

Because children enjoy living in their imaginations.

> 1. Find the X-word and the Subject:
>   S   VxDo

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Because children *enjoy living in their imagination.*

2. Make a Y/N question:

Do children enjoy living in their imaginations? *Because*

3. Are all of the words used in the question?

No. "Because" is left over.

4. This is a CLAUSE. It needs a TRUNK.

Sometimes the imaginary and the real seem the same.

1. Find the X-word and the Subject:

when?   *   * VXO

Sometimes the imaginary and the real *seem the same.*

2. Make a Y/N question

[sometimes] Do the imaginary and the real [sometimes] seem the same [sometimes]?

3. Are all of the words used in the question?

Yes. "sometimes" seems awkward at the front, but it fits well in other places

4. This is a good TRUNK.

Until they get older.

1. Find the X-word and the Subject:

S   VxO

Until they *get older.*

2. Make a Y/N question

Do they get older? Until

3. Are all of the words used in the question?

No

4. This is a fragment.

Lesson 22 Exercise 1

CLAUSE or TRUNK?

Use the yes/no question test to decide if each group of words is a TRUNK or a CLAUSE. The steps:

1. Find the X-word and the Subject:
2. Make a Y/N question.
3. Are all of the words used in the question?

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              *           * X   Ving
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1   My roommate and I are having a party.

   Y/N: Are my roommate and I having a party?

   CLAUSE or TRUNK? TRUNK

2   We're having it outside.
    Y/N: _____
    CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

3   Because our apartment building has a patio.
    Y/N: _____
    CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

4   Unless it rains.
    Y/N: _____
    CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

5   We have invited a lot of people.
    Y/N: _____
    CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

6   Our friends who we both like.
    Y/N: _____
    CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

7   Sometimes it is difficult.
    Y/N: _____
    CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

8   We didn't invite my roommate's friend from back home.
    Y/N: _____
    CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

9   The friend whose boyfriend we don't like.
    Y/N: _____
    CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

10 Her boyfriend always complains about the food, the drinks, and the people.
Y/N: _____

_____

CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

11 Whenever we invite him.
Y/N: _____

CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

12 Although the party should be fun.
Y/N: _____

CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

13 If the weather is good.
Y/N: _____

CLAUSE or TRUNK? _____

Lesson 22 Exercise 2

Correcting fragments

Usually you can correct this kind of "fragment" by combining the clause with the trunk that comes before or after it. Sometimes it's better to add a new trunk to the clause. Go back to **Exercise 1** and try to correct numbers 6, 12, and 13.

Example: Incorrect: Unless it rains.

Correct: We're having the party outside unless it rains.

(we combined #2 and #4)

6.   _____

_____

12.   _____

_____

13.   _____

_____