

# Non-Finite Clauses

# NON-FINITE CLAUSES

- mostly dependent; compact, less explicit
- not marked for tense and modality; frequently without subject and subordinator (conjunction)
  - *I don't know **what to write about**.*  
(*I don't know **what I should write about**.*)
  - ***Crossing**, he lifted the rolled umbrella high and pointed to show cars, buses, speeding trucks, and cabs.*  
(***As he was crossing**, he lifted the rolled umbrella high and pointed to show cars, buses, speeding trucks, and cabs.*)
  - ***Style being a relational concept**, the aim of literary stylistics is to be relational in a more interesting sense than that **already mentioned**.*  
(***Since style is a relational concept**, the aim of literary stylistics is to be relational in a more interesting sense than that **which has already been mentioned**.*)

# INFINITIVE CLAUSES – identify their function:

1. *Artificial pearls before real swine were cast by these jet-set preachers. **To have thought this** made him more cheerful. (S)*
2. *The only way out of the dilemma is **to suppose that sometimes the photon gets through and sometimes it does not.** (SP)*
3. *Do you want me **to send them today?** (Od)*
4. *Some of these issues dropped out of Marx's later works because he considered them **to have been satisfactorily dealt with.** (OP)*
5. *A little group of people had gathered by Mrs. Millings **to watch the police activities on the foreshore.** (A)*

# ING-CLAUSES – identify their function:

1. *Having a fever is pleasant, vacant. (S)*
2. *What I'm thinking of is **disconnecting the pipe there, and running it through - that way.** (SP)*
3. *It's as if the guy never stops **thinking about the issue.** (Od)*
4. ***Having established the direction of the line,** we now wish to find some point on the line. (A)*
5. *I think he smashed two cars **coming down the road.** (post-modifier in a noun phrase)*

# ED-CLAUSES – identify their function:

1. *God you've gone mad with the sugar in yours. Do you want **it topped up**? (Od)*
2. ***When told by the police** how badly injured his victims were he said: "Good, I hope they die.,, (A)*
3. *There wasn't a scrap of evidence to link him with the body **found on the Thames foreshore at low tide**. (post-modifier in a noun phrase)*

# SUPPLEMENTIVE CLAUSES

- Loosely integrated clauses (within the main clause), marked by comma:
  - *Directed by Benjamin Twist, who, incidentally, is one of the names being mentioned as a possible successor to Nowozielski, the production is a delightfully theatrical retelling of Dicken's famous novel.*
  - *The celebrated bust, looking like two dunces' caps applied to her chest, was encased in a halter-necked sweater which left all but essentials bare.*
  - *He walked with a tilting gait, his left Achilles tendon apparently shortened, pulling his heel up.*
  - *She gazed down at the floor, biting her lip, face clouded.* (FICT)
- Loose relationship (both syntactically and semantically)
- Speaker marks information as subordinate

# VERBLESS CLAUSES

- Verbless clauses in the written registers typically mark information as communicatively less important, while in conversation they are usually limited to the formulaic expressions.
  - *She had also been taught, **when in difficulty**, to think of a good life to imitate.*
  - ***Although not a classic**, this 90-minute video is worth watching.*
  - *He does not believe celibacy should be demanded of priests **whether gay or straight**.*
  - *Every day, **if possible**, allot time at your desk to sorting and filing everything you have collected since the previous day by way of either elicited or spontaneous data.*

Identify the clauses, and decide whether they are finite or non-finite.

1. [After having spent six hours at the hospital] **NF** , [they eventually came home] **F**.
2. We were not allowed in because we arrived late.
3. A woman recognized as hostage was found unharmed.
4. As far as I know, all kids love computer games.
5. Harry was proud to have served in the army.



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2. [We were not allowed in] **F** [because we arrived late] **F**.
3. [A woman] [recognized as hostage] **NF** [was found unharmed] **F**.
4. [As far as I know] **F**, [all kids love computer games] **F**.
5. [Harry was proud] **F** [to have served in the army] **NF**.