

# Independent Clauses

# INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

- **Independent clause:** a clause that can stand alone as a sentence (i.e., it expresses a complete thought).
- **Dependent / subordinate clause:** a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence (i.e., some crucial piece of information is missing).
  1. [***The patrol*** had spotted the sniper], who was hiding in an attic.
  2. [Do **you** know the butcher] who went to court on Saturday?
  3. [**I** am not tidying the dishes] unless Peter helps.
  4. When it rains, [the **daffodils** bow their heads].
  5. [Go], and [never darken my towels again]
  6. If I held you any closer, [**I** would be on the other side of you].
  7. [**Wives** are people] [who feel] [they don't dance enough].
- The bracketed independent clauses could all stand alone (and still make sense).

# COORDINATION (PARATAXIS)

- **COORDINATORS:** join units of equal status (e.g. an adjective with another adjective, a noun with another noun, or a clause with another clause).
- mnemonic **F.A.N.B.O.Y.S.:**     *for, AND, nor, BUT, OR, yet, so*

## *What units are joined?*

1. *Fred is [fast **but** unmotivated horse].*
  2. *He eats apples **and** grass.*
  3. *He will win the race, **or** he will give up quickly.*
  4. *He typed the letter quickly **but** accurately.*
- We use **comma** when joining independent clauses

# CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

- Join equivalent elements (similarly to coordinating conj.)
- If the 2nd conj. before an independent clause, then a **comma** should be used (but no comma if smaller elements conjoined)

- **CORRELATIVE PAIRS:**

*BOTH ... AND; EITHER ... OR; NEITHER ... NOR; NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO:*

*Either stay here **or** go home.*

*She can **both** make some sandwiches **and** help you with the dishes.*

*On Sunday afternoon he **either** sleeps **or** watches the TV.*

# COORDINATION REDUCTION

- for any sentential coordination with superficial subjects there is a reduced paraphrase with coordinate predicates:

*John bit the boy, [and] John kicked the girl => John bit the boy and kicked the girl.*

- it is equally possible to leave out any repetitive element in the reduced (coordinated) sentence structure (as long as the underlying pattern is clear:

*That John cooked rice [and] that Henry cooked the beans is obvious*

*=> That John cooked rice and Henry the beans is obvious.*

*=> I borrow, and Peter steals, small sums of money from rich people.*

# COMPOUND SENTENCE

- **COMPOSITE SENTENCE** : neatly woven web of coordinate and subordinate clause relations (i.e. the opposite of a simple sentence)
- If at least 2 main/independent clauses = **COMPOUND SENTENCE** (i.e., compound sentence is a type of composite sentence)
  - *Salaries are high, vacations are long.*
  - *We make money and (we) have fun.*
  - *[It was heavy going], [you can't say much in a letter], and [Maureen had never been much of a one for personal correspondence].*
  - *[In the first dawn of light Annabel lay in the small bedroom beside the sleeping baby] and [(Annabel) summed up, for herself, the probabilities] [that lay ahead].*