

**SENTENCE as the
MAIN UNIT of
SYNTAX**

5. Compound sentences.

compound sentence = a
polypredicative construction
built on the principle of
coordination.

- the clauses have **syntactically equal rank.**

Coordination, can be expressed

- **asyndetically** (by the zero coordinator), e.g.: *The quarrel was over, the friendship was resumed.*
- **syndetically** (by means of coordinative connectors)

Sentences with more than two sequential clauses can be:

- “**open**” – clauses can be added (e.g. enumerations or descriptions): *They were sitting on the beach, the seagulls were flying above, the waves were rolling...*
- “**closed**” - cannot be further expanded:
e.g.: He joked, he made faces, he jumped around, but the child did not smile.

6. Complex sentence

The complex sentence
is a polypredicative
construction built on the
principle of
subordination.

2 or more clauses:

- *the principal clause*
- *subordinate clauses* *is put in the one of the notional positions in the principal clause*

e.g.: *The team arrived.* + *It caused a sensation.*

- *When the team arrived, it caused a sensation.*

Types of subordinate clauses

1. Clauses of primary nominal positions,

- include subject, predicative and object clauses,

cf.: *What you see is what you get;*

What you get is what you see;

You'll be surprised at what you see.

2. Clauses of secondary nominal positions -various attributive clauses:

cf.: *I know a man **who can help us**;*

*This is the man **whom I met yesterday**.*

3. Clauses of adverbial positions - the most numerous and the most complicated group

Types:

- 1) **of time and place;**
- 2) **of manner and comparison;**
- 3) **of different circumstantial semantics;**
- 4) **parenthetical enclosures**

e.g.: As far as I remember,
the man was very much
surprised to see me there;

They used to be, and this is
no longer a secret, very
close friends.

Clauses are joined by subordinating connectors:

- 1) **pronominal words** - occupy a notional position in the derived sentence; *e.g.: The man whom I met yesterday surprised me.*
- 2) **pure conjunctions** - do not occupy a notional position in the derived sentence, *e.g.: She said that she would come early.*
- 3) **fixed phrases** - *as soon as, as long as, so long as, notwithstanding that, in order that, according as, etc.*

4) **bifunctional connectors** - can be used both as conjunctions and as conjunctive substitutes,

cf.: *She said **that** she would come early;*
*Where is the letter **that** came today?*

5) **the zero subordinator** = its status is similar to the status of the subordinator that

cf.: *She said **that** she would come early. – She said **Ø** she would come early;*

Subordinate clauses may have

1) parallel subordination

-subordinate clauses

immediately referring to one
principal clause are

subordinated **“in parallel’ or
“co-subordinated”**.

Parallel subordination may be:

a) *homogeneous*

- the subordinate clauses perform similar functions and depend on one element in the principal clause

e.g.: *He said **that it was his business and that I'd better stay off it.***

b) *heterogeneous:*

- the subordinate clauses refer to different elements in the principal clause,

e.g.: *The man whom I saw yesterday said **that it was his business.***

2) **consecutive subordination**
- one clause is subordinated
to another in a string of
clauses,

*e.g.: I don't know why she said
that she couldn't come at the
time that I suggested*

7. Semi-composite sentence

Semi-composite sentences

= polypredicative constructions, in which **one predicative line may be partially predicative = expresses by a gerundial, participial or infinitival construction.**

e.g.: *I heard him singing in the backyard.*

They are intermediary between the simple sentence and the composite sentence.

- *The sergeant gave a quick salute to me, and then he put his squad in motion.*

2 successive events

- *Giving a quick salute to me, the sergeant put his squad in motion.*

one event dominates the other

- *With a quick salute to me, the sergeant put his squad in motion.*

a unity of events, one of them – only a background

- *in their syntactic structure*, they are similar to **simple sentences** - contain only one fully predicative line;
- *in their semantic structure*, they are similar to **composite sentences** - reflect two dynamic situations.

Ways to express partial predication

1) complex object

*I saw **you take it.** I saw **you taking it.***

2) absolute constructions

I sent the papers in order for you to study them carefully.

Mike's coming back was a total surprise to us.

The weather being fine, we decided to take a walk

Semi-composite sentences



semi-compound

semi-complex

sentences,

sentences,

built on the
principle of
coordination
(parataxis)

built on the
principle of
subordination
(hypotaxis)