

- ACTION 1
When her father walked away, leaving a blank space in the doorway,
ACTION 2
the little girl took a bite of mint chocolate chip ice cream and watched
ACTION 3
ACTION 4
ACTION 5
her sister crying on her bed.

- A. independent clause
- B. adverb clause
- C. adjective clause
- D. noun clause
- E. participle
- F. infinitive

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A. compound sentence
B. compound verb

A. independent clause
B. adverb clause

- C. adjective clause
- D. noun clause
- E. participle
- F. infinitive

VI. Change the adverbial clause "When her father walked away" into an independent clause and express the sentence below as a compound sentence:

When her father walked away, leaving a blank space in the doorway, the little girl took a bite of mint chocolate chip ice cream and watched her sister crying on her bed.

VII. CHALLENGE QUESTION:

The following sentence is grammatically correct. But there's something odd about the clause in bold type.

*I carried my pretzel onto the bus, **where the bus driver's aide didn't see it as I walked to the back of the bus and sat beside a window.***

Two questions about the clause in bold type:

1. What kind of clause is it?
2. What function does the clause serve? (In other words, if it's a modifying clause, what word does it modify, and if it's a noun clause, what slot does it fill in the main clause?)

HINT: That word "where" is misleading. "Where" is often a subordinating conjunction signaling an adverbial clause. But here it's a relative pronoun. Once you realize that, you should be able to work out what kind of clause this is, and what function it serves.

VIII. CHALLENGE QUESTION: This question refers to the same sentence as above.

*I carried my pretzel onto the bus, **where the bus driver's aide didn't see it as I walked to the back of the bus and sat beside a window.***

1. We have already seen that the clause in bold is an adjective clause modifying "bus." Does this adjective clause seem like an appropriate way to depict the action described in the clause? Why or why not?
2. How would you revise this sentence?



4.5 Answer Key

- I. B. "When her father walked away..." is an adverb clause.
- II. E. "Leaving a blank space in the doorway" is a participle within the opening adverb clause. It modifies "father."
- III. A. This (together with Action 4, the girl watching her sister) is the main action of the sentence.
- IV. B. There's only one main clause in this long sentence, but that clause contains a compound verb: *ate* and *watched*. They share the subject *little girl*.
- V. E. The phrase *crying on her bed* is a participial phrase modifying *sister*.
- VI. *Her father walked away, leaving a blank space in the doorway, and the little girl took a bite of mint chocolate ice cream and watched her sister crying on the bed.*

Or you could use a semicolon (I prefer this version):

Her father walked away, leaving a blank space in the doorway; the little girl took a bite of mint chocolate ice cream and watched her sister crying on the bed.

- VII. As strange as it seems,
1. This is an adjective clause.
2. It modifies "bus."
- VIII. Consider the actions in this sentence:
1. A school-child carries a pretzel onto a bus.
2. The school-child walks to the back of the bus with the pretzel.
3. The bus driver's aide doesn't notice the pretzel-sneaking.

Actions 2 and 3 seem at least as important as Action 1; you might say they are the main point of the sentence. The fact that those two actions are tucked into an adjective clause modifying 'bus' is misleading. This is a good example of the grammar of a sentence getting crossways with the logic of the sentence.

Possible rewrites:

I carried my pretzel onto the bus, but the bus driver's aide didn't notice it as I walked to the back of the bus and found a seat beside a window.

I carried my pretzel onto the bus. I walked past the bus driver's aide the way to my seat in the back, but she didn't notice the pretzel.