**Larbi Ben M’hidi University, Oum El Bouaghi Module : CPE**

**Faculty of Letters and Languages Level : L1/ G.2 +G.10**

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**Lecture 02: From word to Sentence**

1. **Clauses**

Like a phrase, a clause is used as a particular part of speech or part of a sentence; however, unlike a phrase, a clause has a verb and its subject.

**An independent clause** (sometimes called a main clause) is a group of words that has a verb and its subject. These words could stand alone as a sentence.

**e.g.** The white index cards fell to the floor.

I had to pick them all up.

**Subordinate Clauses**

A subordinate clause (sometimes called a dependent clause) has a verb and its subject, but it can’t stand alone as a sentence. In order for a subordinate clause to make sense, it has to be attached to an independent clause.

**e.g.** When they fell on the floor and scattered everywhere

The above subordinate clause has a subject they and verbs fell and scattered. But read the words alone: So, what about them? What happened next? It needs another clause (an independent clause) to be a sentence.

**e.g.** I had just alphabetized the cards when they fell on the floor and scattered everywhere.

There are three types of subordinate clauses, and each acts in a different way in the sentence.

**An adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that acts as an adjective; it modifies or describes a noun or pronoun. It is sometimes called a relative clause because it often begins with a relative pronoun (who, whose, whom, which, and that).

**e.g.** That man, **whom I went to high school with**, walked right by as if he’d never met me.

(Whom I went to high school with is an adjective clause describing the word man.)

**A noun clause** is a subordinate clause that acts as a noun; it can be the subject, predicate nominative, appositive, object of a verb, or object of a preposition.

**e.g.** Rocky couldn’t believe **what he heard at the water fountain.**

(What he heard at the water fountain is a noun clause serving as the direct object of he heard.)

3. An adverb clause is a subordinate clause that acts as an adverb; it can modify or describe a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. An adverb clause is introduced by a subordinating conjunction, such as after, although, as (if), because, once, until, and while.

Mr. Sylvester came to visit **because he needed some company for the evening**.

(Because he needed some company for the evening is an adverb clause that modifies the verb came.)