

The Subordinate Clause

17c. A *subordinate (or dependent) clause* does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a sentence.

EXAMPLES to whom we sent the get-well card
that Jim Flying Eagle knew about computers

The thought expressed by a subordinate clause becomes complete when the clause is combined with an independent clause. Like a word or a phrase, a subordinate clause can be used as an adjective, a noun, or an adverb in a sentence.

EXAMPLES Isn't my friend Angela, **to whom we sent the get-well card**, going home from the hospital today? [adjective clause]
That Jim Flying Eagle knew about computers was obvious from his comparison of the new models. [noun clause]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the subordinate clause.

Example 1. Teddy knew that someday soon he would have to finish his term paper.

- Louise Abbéma, who lived from 1858 to 1927, at first was most famous for painting portraits.
- While she was an art student, the young girl continually amazed everyone with her ability.
- An early influence was artist Rosa Bonheur, whose skill and renown Abbéma admired.
- In Paris, where she had been studying with well-known artists and art teachers, her first portrait of Sarah Bernhardt gained her public recognition in 1876.
- Because Bernhardt continued posing for Abbéma's portraits, they became good friends.
- That Abbéma wore her hair short and often dressed as a French soldier added to her notoriety in Paris social circles.
- She showed not only portraits but also still lifes as exhibits of her art continued.
- Admirers wanted decorative panels, engravings, and illustrations that she had created.
- Have you seen her *Portrait of a Young Girl with a Blue Ribbon*, which I happen to like?
- She must have been proud when she received the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for her artistic achievements.