

**Lecture Notes:**

- A **clause** is a grammatical unit that can express a complete thought.
- A clause contains a subject (NP) and a predicate (VP).  
I.e. Clause = [[subject (NP)] + [predicate (VP)]]
- **Note:** The subject can either be explicit or implied.
- There are many different clause types:
  - Declarative
  - Interrogative
  - Exclamative
  - Imperative
- **Declarative/Indicative/Canonical Clauses:**
  - Typically, declaratives are used to make statements or report facts.
  - They are the default clause type. Other clause types can be described by how they are different from declaratives.
  - Declaratives cannot start with a wh-word (What, Who, Where, When, Why, How, etc)
  - Basic declaratives have the structure: SUBJECT + PREDICATE.  
E.g.  
The children [bought a pet].  
"The children" is the subject.  
"Bought a pet" is the predicate.
  - **Note:** Declarative clauses can be questions.  
E.g.  
These are the only seats left?  
(If the sentence is "Are these the only seats left?", then it would be an interrogative clause.)
- **Interrogative Clauses:**
  - There are 2 types of interrogative clauses, closed and open.
  - **Closed interrogative clauses**, also known as **yes-no questions**, are questions with a limited set of answers.  
E.g.  
Did they leave?(Answer: yes/no).  
Did she eat an apple or a banana?(Answer: apple/banana)
  - Structurally, closed interrogative clauses are different from basic declaratives in that the subject and an auxiliary have been inverted. This process is called **subject-auxiliary inversion**.  
I.e. The auxiliary comes before the subject.  
E.g.  
He can eat. (Declarative) → Can he eat?(Closed interrogative)
  - If no auxiliary is available, "do" is inserted in order to allow inversion.  
E.g.  
She ate the apple. (Declarative) → Did she eat the apple? (Close interrogative)
  - **Open interrogative clauses** have virtually an unlimited set of answers. They usually ask **wh-questions** (who, whom, whose, what, when, where, why, how). They are used to seek specific information.  
E.g.  
What did you eat?  
Where did you go?

When should I arrive?

Who have you seen?

- Open interrogatives differ from declaratives in that they contain a fronted **wh-word** (who, whom, whose, what, when, where, why, how).
- When the wh-word is not the subject, open interrogatives also show inversion, just like closed interrogatives.
- E.g.  
He has eaten an apple. (Declarative) → What has he eaten? (Open interrogative)
- If you're asking a question about the subject of the sentence, simply replace the subject with the word "who".
- E.g.  
Sarah left the party. → Who left the party?
- If you're asking a question about the object of the sentence and there's an auxiliary in the sentence, you replace the object with the word "what", move "what" to the front of the sentence and then have subject-auxiliary inversion.
- E.g.  
He has eaten the apple. → What has he eaten?
- If you're asking a question about the object of the sentence and there's no auxiliary in the sentence, you replace the object with the word "what", move "what" to the front of the sentence, and insert the word "do".
- E.g. He ate the apple. → What did he eat?
- **Note:** For subject-auxiliary inversion, if there are multiple auxiliaries, we only change the position of the first one.  
E.g. She could have lied. → Could she have lied?  
There are 2 auxiliaries in the sentence above, could and have. We changed the position of could.
- **Tag questions** are also classified under interrogative clauses. They turn a statement into a question and are often used for checking information that we think we know is true.
- There are 2 types of tag questions:
  1. **Reverse Polarity Tags:**
    - The polarity of the tag is opposite to the polarity of the clause.
    - If your clause is positive, then your tag is negative, and vice versa.
    - E.g.  
She doesn't like fish, does she?  
Here, the clause "She doesn't like fish" is negative, while the tag "does she" is positive.  
  
She's Italian, isn't she?  
Here, the clause "She's Italian" is positive while the tag "isn't she" is negative.
  2. **Constant Polarity Tags:**
    - Are usually used to ask questions or ask for agreement.
    - The polarity of the tag and the polarity of the clause are the same.
    - If your clause is positive, so is your tag, and vice versa.
    - E.g.  
She hates fish, does she?  
Here, the clause, "She hates fish" is positive and the tag "does she" is also positive.

- Are usually used to express surprise.
- **Exclamative Clauses:**
  - Used to express exclamations.
  - They usually start with “what” or “how”.
  - E.g.
    - What luck.
    - How lucky.
    - What a disaster that was.
  - However, there are other alternatives used to express exclamations.
  - E.g.
    - Such a nasty comment.
    - How nice.
- **Imperative Clauses:**
  - Are used to tell people to do or not do certain things.
  - Can be used to give advice, suggestions, commands, requests, orders, instructions, offers, or invitations.
  - E.g.
    - Don't be late. (Command/order)
    - Please read the document. (Request)
    - Prepare yourself before the quiz. (Instruction)
    - Make sure to take your medication. (Advice)
    - Feel free to ask questions. (Invitation)
  - They contain the plain form of the verb and allow the 2<sup>nd</sup> person subject (you) to be eliminated.
  - E.g.
    - Stand up.
    - Clean your room.
  - Must use the word “do” with negative polarity.
  - E.g.
    - Don't be late.

### **Textbook Notes:**

- A **clause** is made up of a subject and a predicate.
- There are many types of clauses:
  1. **Declarative/Indicative/Canonical:**
    - Basic declaratives are the simplest type of clause and have the structure: SUBJECT + PREDICATE.
    - Declaratives are the default clause type. Other clause types can be described by how they are different from declaratives.
    - Typically, declaratives are used to make statements or report facts.
  2. **Interrogative:**
    - Are used to ask questions. There are two main types of interrogative clauses:
      - a. **Closed interrogatives:**
        - **Closed interrogative** clauses are questions with a limited set of answers.
        - E.g.
          - Did they leave? (Answer: yes/no).
          - Did she eat an apple or a banana? (Answer: apple/banana)
        - Structurally, closed interrogative clauses are different from basic declaratives in that the subject and an auxiliary have been inverted.

- E.g.  
He can eat. (Declarative) Can he eat? (Closed interrogative)
  - Therefore, if there's an auxiliary present in the sentence, a yes-no question is formed by moving the auxiliary to the beginning of the sentence. This process is called **Subject-Auxiliary Inversion**.
  - E.g.  
He has been working hard.                      Has he been working hard?  
She could arrive on time.                      Could she arrive on time?  
They are returning home.                      Are they returning home?  
**Note:** if there is more than one auxiliary, the first auxiliary is moved to the front of the sentence.
  - If there's no auxiliary present in the sentence:
    - If the main verb is "be", simply move "be" to the front of the sentence.  
E.g.  
He is my favourite student. → Is he my/your favourite student?  
Here the verb be appears at the beginning of the sentence where we would expect an auxiliary.
    - If the main verb is not "be", "do" is inserted as an auxiliary to allow inversion. Depending on the tense of the sentence and the person, we use do, does, and did.  
E.g.  
Sandy reads the book.                      Does Sandy read the book?  
Sandy read the book.                      Did Sandy read the book?  
They read the book.                      Do/Did they read the book?
  - To change from a declarative clause to a closed interrogative clause, move the first auxiliary verb or the main verb "be" in the declarative clause to the front of the sentence. If there is no auxiliary, insert do as an auxiliary. This process is called **do-Insertion**.
- b. Open interrogatives:**
- Open interrogative clauses, on the other hand, have a virtually unlimited set of answers.
  - Open interrogatives differ from declaratives in that they contain a fronted **wh-word** (who, whom, whose, what where, when, why, how). When the wh-word is not the subject, open interrogatives also show inversion, just like closed interrogatives.
  - E.g.  
He has eaten an apple. **What** has he eaten?  
He arrived at noon.                      **When** did he arrive?
  - Wh-questions are different from yes-no questions in two ways:
    1. They ask for missing information rather than confirmation or denial.
    2. They start with a wh-word (who, whom, which, why, when, where, what, whose, etc.)
  - If you're asking a question about the subject of the sentence, simply replace the subject with the word "who".
  - E.g.  
Sarah left the party. → Who left the party?

- If you're asking a question about the object of the sentence and there's an auxiliary in the sentence, you replace the object with the word "what", move "what" to the front of the sentence and then have subject-auxiliary inversion.
- E.g.  
He has eaten the apple. → What has he eaten?
- If you're asking a question about the object of the sentence and there's no auxiliary in the sentence, you replace the object with the word "what", move "what" to the front of the sentence, and insert the word "do".
- E.g. He ate the apple. → What did he eat?

### 3. **Exclamative:**

- Exclamative clauses begin with an exclamative phrase containing either "what" or "how".
- E.g.  
What a deal that was!  
How lucky they were!  
What a disaster it was!
- They differ from open interrogatives in that they usually don't require inversion.
- E.g.  
How lucky were they? (Open Interrogative)  
How lucky they were! (Exclamative)

### 4. **Imperative:**

- Are used to tell people to do or not do certain things.
- Can be used to give advice, suggestions, commands, requests, orders, instructions, offers, or invitations.
- E.g.  
Don't be late. (Command/order)  
Please read the document. (Request)  
Prepare yourself before the quiz. (Instruction)  
Make sure to take your medication. (Advice)  
Feel free to ask questions. (Invitation)
- They contain the plain form of the verb and allow the 2<sup>nd</sup> person subject (you) to be eliminated.
- E.g.  
Stand up.  
Clean your room.
- Must use the word "do" with negative polarity.
- E.g.  
Don't be late.
- **Tag questions:**
- **Tag questions** are mainly used in informal/spoken English rather than written English.
- Tag questions can be used:
  1. To ask real questions.
  2. To confirm whether something is true or not.

- To make a tag question:
  1. Use the auxiliary if there is an auxiliary or if the main verb is "be".

E.g.  
It hasn't rained, has it? (there is an auxiliary present)  
It can't be true, can it? (there is an auxiliary present)  
He's a smart kind, isn't he? (the main verb is be)  
You won't do it, will you? (there is an auxiliary present)
  2. If there is no auxiliary present, use do, does, did.

E.g.  
You know them, don't you?  
She finished it, didn't she?  
Sam doesn't like her, does he?