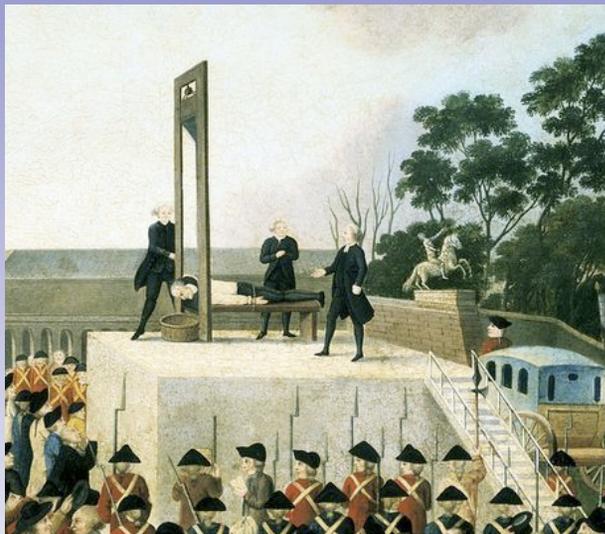




Dr.
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Word Roots: Classics 30



Louis XVI meets
the guillotine.

Thursday,
August 19, 2010:

Today's Goals

- To learn about independent and dependent clauses.
- To learn about conjunctions, coordinate and subordinate.

A Note on Predicates

- English word order favors having subjects before predicates.
- However, for effect, elements of the predicate often are put at the beginning of a sentence. (In the most formal writing, such elements are set off with a comma, but that is somewhat a matter of taste)
- Example

I walked to the railroad station after dinner.

After dinner, I walked to the railroad station.

Independent and Dependent Clauses

- Clauses have subjects and predicates.
- Independent clauses (also called main clauses) can stand on their own as sentences.
- Dependent clauses (also called subordinate clauses) are not sentences on their own.
- Examples:
 - Independent clause: I see the dog.
 - Dependent clause: although I see the dog.

Practice:

Which of the following are independent, and which are dependent clauses?

- I enjoy vacations in France.
- because I enjoy vacations in France.
- although I eat beef.
- I eat beef every day.
- We all want peace.
- We all want to destroy our enemies.
- since we want to destroy our enemies.
- when I first saw you.
- I first saw you in 1992.

Parts of Speech (Classes of Words)

Content Words

- Nouns
- Adjectives
- Verbs
- Adverbs

Function Words

- Pronouns
- Prepositions
- Conjunctions
- Interjections

Conjunctions

- Conjunctions are words that join two things together ({con} = together; {junct} = join; {ion} = state or action (noun suffix))

Examples:

John and Mary

Bill or Bob

Coordinating Conjunctions

- Coordinating conjunctions join things of the same level ({co/com/con}=together, same; {ordin} = order, rank, level; {ate} = adjectival suffix)
- The most common ones in English are “and” and “or”
- Examples:
 - John and Mary eat pizza.
 - I didn’t see John or Bill

Compound Things

- When a simple subject, a simple predicate, or even sentences are joined together by a coordinating conjunction, we say we have a compound simple subject, compound simple predicate, or compound sentence.
- Examples:
 - John and Mary are eating pizza.
 - John loves and hates his girlfriend.
 - John went home, and Mary went to the store.

Anything Can Be Compound

- Compound simple subject:
 - Mary and I see the flying saucer.
- Compound predicate:
 - John ate the pizza or went home.
- Compound simple predicate:
 - I bought and sold paintings.
- Compound object of a preposition:
 - I didn't stay with Mary or Bob.
- Compound sentence;
 - I walked home, and Mary didn't follow.

English's Coordinating Conjunctions.

- and
- or
- nor
- but
- for
- yet
- so

English's Coordinating Conjunctions: “and” and “or”

- “And” and “or” can join just about anything.
 - Main Clauses: Bill sings, and Ann dances.
 - Predicates John goes home or waits here.
- They also form series:
 - John, Tom, and Bill drink coffee.
 - The girl sings, dances, and acts.

English's Coordinating Conjunctions: “nor”

- “Nor” is very flexible, too, but rules of English make it a bit less flexible than “and” and “or.” Frequently, it is used with “neither,” which is also classed as a conjunction since it helps “nor” join words.
 - John doesn't sing, nor does he dance.
 - Neither Bill nor Joe likes coffee.

English's Coordinating Conjunctions: “but”

- “But” is flexible, too, but rules of English make it most common between clauses.
 - John doesn't sing, but he does act.
 - I saw not John but Bill.
 - She was poor but proud.

English's Coordinating Conjunctions: “yet,” “so,” and “for”

- These words, as conjunctions, occur mostly between clauses.
 - I didn't go to Rome, yet I did make it to Milan.
 - I had no money, so I went home.
 - I stayed in bed, for I had a fever.
- Note: “for” can also be a preposition, and the two usages are very different. “For” as a conjunction means “because.”

English's Coordinating Conjunctions: Commas

- In the most formal English, independent clauses joined by coordinating conjunctions require a comma.
 - I didn't go to Rome, but I did make it to Milan.
 - I had no money, so I went home.
- For very short sentences, some people ignore this rule.

English's Coordinating Conjunctions: Commas

- There are two ways to use commas in series.
- Some people put commas after all but the last element:
 - I drink coffee, tea, and milk frequently.
- Other people leave out the comma before the conjunction.
 - I drink coffee, tea and milk.
- Choose one or the other and be consistent.

A Further Note on Commas

- It is considered an error (a “comma splice”) to connect two independent clauses with a comma.

X John likes apples, Mary likes grapes.

- A semicolon can be used instead:
John likes apples; Mary likes grapes.

Subordinating Conjunctions

- Many (but not all!) dependent clauses begin with “subordinating conjunctions.”
 - {sub} = under; {ordin} = order, rank
 - Subordinating conjunctions connect things of “lower rank” (dependent clauses) to things of higher rank (usually independent clauses).
 - (Remember: Coordinating conjunctions join things of the same rank [{co} = with, together].)
 - Examples:
 - John could see Bill although it was dark.
 - I came home because you were sick.

Some Subordinating Conjunctions

- after
- as
- before
- if
- when
- though
- that
- although
- because
- how
- since
- where
- so that
- whenever

Note on Clauses with Subordinating Conjunctions

- Clauses that begin with subordinating conjunctions are almost always part of the predicate of the clause to which they are subordinate (they are thought to be like adverbs).

John speaks French when he goes to France.

- Contrast:

The man whom you see is my brother.

(“whom” is not a subordinating conjunction [it’s a relative pronoun]; the dependent clause here [a relative clause] is part of its main clause’s subject)

Commas and Subordinate Clauses

- Since clauses that begin with subordinating conjunctions are part of the predicate, in the most formal writing, when they appear at the beginning of a sentence, they require a comma.

John comes if I call

If I call, John comes.

- But this rule is sometimes ignored, particularly if the subordinate clause is short.

Bonus Biology Term

- xylem
 - {xyl(o)} = “wood”
 - {em/ema/eme} = noun suffix
 - Xylem is the vascular system in plants that brings water and other nutrients from the soil to the various parts of the plant.
- Compare:
 - Phloem ({phlo} = “bark”)
 - Problem {bl/ball/bol} = throw
 - theme

Practice

Find the Subordinate Clauses and Conjunctions

In their quest to prove that they understand the intricacies of climate science better than actual climate scientists, media figures routinely promote any ridiculous evidence if they think that it undermines the scientific consensus about climate change.

These people point to snowstorms in February to prove that global warming is not real. They claim that CO₂ can't be a pollutant because "we breathe" it. They ignore actual temperature data when it contradicts their arguments.

Last year, climate change skeptics, as the *Wall Street Journal's* Kimberly Strassel said, thought that they had found a "gold mine." Media figures seized on emails after they were stolen from scientists and completely distorted their contents. As we pointed out repeatedly at the time, this "scandal" relied on outrageous misrepresentations of the stolen emails and did not in any way undermine the scientific consensus about climate change.

(Edited down from a Ben Dimiero post at mediamatters.org)