

**UNIVERSIDAD DEL VALLE
FACULTAD DE HUMANIDADES
ESCUELA DE CIENCIAS DEL LENGUAJE
LECTURA DE TEXTOS ACADÉMICOS EN INGLÉS**

Frases nominales

Luis A. Saldarriaga B.

English teacher (ESP)

luisarcelio@yahoo.com

La oración compleja en inglés

La oración compleja en inglés (*the complex sentence*) contiene al menos dos partes (*clauses*) que se conocen en español como **proposiciones**, una principal (*main clause*) y una subordinada (*subordinate clause*). La **proposición subordinada** puede funcionar en una oración como un sustantivo (**proposición sustantiva**), un adjetivo (**proposición adjetiva**), o un adverbio (**proposición adverbial**).

Proposiciones sustantivas (I)

Las proposiciones sustantivas (*noun clauses*) comienzan con la palabra **que** (*that*); o con un pronombre interrogativo, tal como **por qué** (*why*), **qué** (*what*), o **cómo** (*how*); y pueden funcionar en una oración como un sustantivo.

- The spill of more than 10 million gallons of oil in Alaska caused **what** many people believe is one of the worst environmental disasters ever since.

Proposiciones sustantivas (II)

En este caso, la oración nos habla de que el derrame de más de 10 millones de galones de petróleo en Alaska causó “algo” (***the spill of more than 10 million gallons of oil in Alaska caused what ...***). Ese “algo” (un sustantivo), el cual es introducido por la palabra **que** (***what***), resulta ser un desastre (uno de los peores desastres ambientales desde entonces, según piensan muchos).

Proposiciones adjetivas (I)

Las **proposiciones adjetivas** (*adjective clauses*), también conocidas como **proposiciones de relativo**; generalmente comienzan con un pronombre relativo, tal como **quien** (*who*), **cuyo** (*whose*), **que** (*that*), **cual** (*which*), **donde** (*where*), o **cuando** (*when*); y siguen inmediatamente al sustantivo o al pronombre que describen.

- At the moment of the collision the third mate, **who** was not certified to take the tanker into those waters, was at the helm.

Proposiciones adjetivas (II)

En términos generales esta oración nos habla de que en el momento del choque, el tercer oficial estaba al timón (*At the moment of the collision the third mate was at the helm*). La proposición adjetiva, la cual es introducida por la palabra **quien** (*who*), nos aclara “algo” acerca de el tercer oficial, quien (él) no estaba certificado (autorizado) para dirigir el petrolero hacia esas aguas (*the third mate, who was not certified to take the tanker into those waters*).

Frases nominales (*noun phrases*)

- La frase nominal es el equivalente del sujeto (sintagma nominal) y como tal no lleva verbo. En inglés, una frase nominal (*noun phrase*) puede ser el sujeto (*subject*) o el objeto (*object*) de una oración.
- Una frase nominal está compuesta por un sustantivo principal (*head noun*), también llamado **núcleo**; y sus modificadores (premodificadores y/o posmodificadores).

Premodificadores

- Los premodificadores pueden ser adjetivos (*adjectives*), los cuales califican al sustantivo; determinantes (*determiners*), que lo concretan (*an article, a demonstrative word, a possessive adjective, a numeral, an ordinal number, or a quantifier*); participios (*past participles*), que en este caso actúan como adjetivos; otros sustantivos, formas *-ing* (*gerunds*); o por varios de los elementos anteriores.

Posmodificadores

- Los posmodificadores pueden ser sintagmas preposicionales (*prepositional phrases*), proposiciones adjetivas (*adjective clauses*), grupos de palabras que comienzan con un participio pasivo (*past participle clauses*), o *gerunds* (en inglés). Estos últimos son claramente diferentes de los **gerundios** (en español) según veremos a continuación.

Gerund vs Gerundio

En inglés, el ***gerund*** se considera como un sustantivo que se forma a partir de un verbo: ***the singing of the birds***. En español, el **gerundio** tiene una función verbal, adverbial o adjetival: **cantando** nunca es un sustantivo (excepto en una oración como esta).

Los ***gerunds*** (en inglés) funcionan a veces como si fueran un pronombre relativo seguido por un verbo (**that + verb**). Esto nunca debe suceder con los **gerundios** (en español).

Una frase (sintagma) nominal

- La increíble y triste **historia** de la cándida Eréndira y de su abuela desalmada.

La (determinante –artículo–) increíble (adjetivo) y (conjunción coordinante) triste (adjetivo) **historia** (sustantivo principal o **núcleo**) **de** (preposición) la (determinante –artículo–) cándida (adjetivo) Eréndira (sustantivo o nombre) y (conjunción coordinante) **de** (preposición) su (determinante –posesivo–) abuela (sustantivo) desalmada (adjetivo).

Núcleo: **historia** (está antes de la preposición **de**).

The complex sentence

A complex sentence is usually made up by a **main clause** and a **subordinate clause**. The **subordinate clause** depends on the main clause for its meaning and may function as an adjective (**adjective clause**), a noun (**noun clause**), or an adverb (**adverb clause**). In this presentation about **noun phrases**, adjective clauses and noun clauses must be taken into account.

Adjective clauses

An adjective clause (also called a relative clause) begins with a relative pronoun (**as, how, that, what, when, where, who, whose, why**) and follows the **noun** or **pronoun** which it describes:

- The accountant disapproved the **plan** that the manager implemented in the firm.
- An accountant is a **person** who maintains the business records of a firm.

Noun clauses

A noun clause begins with the word **that** or a question word (**how, what, when, where, who, whose, why**) and functions in a sentence as a noun:

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) said that the new strategy must increase dividends.
- What the CEO said has made stockholders feel much better.

Noun phrases

A noun phrase is composed by a **head noun** and its modifiers: pre-modifiers and post-modifiers.

Nouns can be pre-modified by a **determiner**, a **past participle**, an **adjective**, another **noun**, a **gerund**; or by several of the above elements.

Usually the head noun is before a preposition such as **at**, **between**, **by**, **for**, **from**, **in**, **of**, **off**, **on**, **over**, **to**, **with**, etc; or a relative pronoun such as **as**, **how**, **that**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **who**, **whose**, **why**, etc.

Determiners

A determiner is a word that establishes and sets limits to a noun. It appears before any descriptive adjective and gives the context that a noun has.

- A determiner can be an article (**a, an, the**), a demonstrative word (**this, that, these, those**), a possessive adjective (*my, your, his, her, its, our, their*), a numeral (*one, two, three*), an ordinal number (*first, second*), or a quantifier (*any, some, many, much*).

Pre-modifiers

- A completely wrong **explanation**.
- A promisory **note** received from a debtor.
- The unearned **portion** of the debts.
- Some basic accounting **principles**.
- One of the largest single current liability **items** on a corporation balance sheet.

Adjective compounds

- Adjective compounds are usually made up by two words (sometimes may be more) linked by a hyphen that works as an adjective. In this cases, they affect the noun that is immediately after them:
- Cash-transfer **problems**.
- Some short-term **assets**.
- A specially-prepared **clay**.

Post-modifiers

Nouns can be post-modified by:

- An adjective (relative) clause: The various **agencies** that regulate public utilities.
- A prepositional phrase: The largest single current liability **item** on a corporation balance sheet.
- A past participle clause: The accounting **methods** followed by this company.

Post-modifiers: adjective clauses

Nouns can be post-modified by clauses of time, place, manner and reason:

- This is the **place** where we work.
- Those were the **months** when we worked the most.
- That was the **way** as we used to work.
- These are the **reasons** why we work here.

The gerund

A gerund is a noun formed from a verb. It has several grammatical functions:

- Noun: A better **understanding** of the accounting problems.
- Pre-modifier: Some major **accounting problems**.
- Post-modifier: the **problems** **affecting** accounting.

The gerund as a posmodifier

In these cases, it works as a relative pronoun plus a verb (**that + verb**):

- The **problems** affecting marketing.
- **People** living on less than \$1 a day.

These two noun phrases may be replaced by:

- • The **problems** that affect marketing.
- • **People** that live on less than \$1 a day.

Noun phrases (activity I)

- Collections received in advance for which goods or services will have to be given in the next fiscal period.
- A liability called Accounts Payable.
- A promisory note given by the business to someone to whom it owes money.
- A financial obligation for which a note has not been given.

Noun phrases (activity II)

- Liabilities payable within one year of the balance sheet date.
- Amounts that are not yet due but are owed to the government for taxes.
- The fundamental element of the accounting system that permits categorization and combination of like transactions and of like assets and liabilities.

Noun phrases (activity III)

- A purchase for which the buyer gives his promise to pay at some future time for the goods he receives.
- More complete explanations of accrued liabilities.
- Food offered for sale in a grocery store and clothing produced for sale in a clothing factory.