TO THE TEACHER

This lesson is an introduction to the next 3 lessons, each on a different type of dependent clause:

Shifter clauses Describer clauses Completer clauses

## Random thoughts:

**Fragments** This is a good time to talk about "fragments." That word has always confused me because a 'fragment' should be a small part of something, but in grammar it's actually an extra word. Maybe I'm alone in my confusion.

The exercises focus on telling TRUNKS (independent clauses) from CLAUSES (dependent clauses) in general. It's time to find student writing that has fragments in it and practice making yes/no questions.

A common fragment culprit is a clause starting with *because*. *He wore his winter coat. Because it is cold*.

Some teachers tell their students never to start a sentence with *because*. Now is the time to unteach that. Because students understand more now, they can use *because* correctly.

### Missing subjects

A clause needs a subject and a verb. Students often leave out the subject—especially "it." *He wore his winter coat because is cold.* 

## Commas

It's never too early to start repeating "a clause at the end doesn't need a comma".

### Clause words

Most clause words have more than one job in English. (Think about \* *that* for a minute.) It's only when *that* relates a clause to a TRUNK that it is a clause word.

One way to help students realize this is to give pairs of sentences—<u>if</u> your students are advanced enough.

A <u>What</u> do you want? B I don't know what you want.

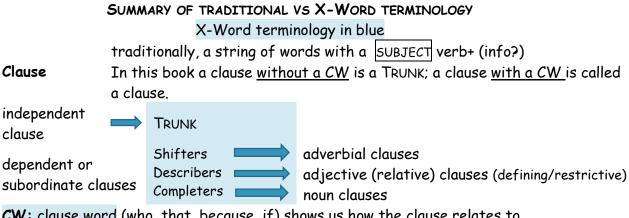
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### ?W X S Vb What do you want?

What is a question word and takes the word order of a question.

S X mw Vb CW S V×O I don't know what you want.

What is a clause word in completer clause. Sentence order, not question order.



**CW:** clause word (who, that, because, if) shows us how the clause relates to (depends on) the TRUNK

In this book "clause" means dependent clause.

<sup>\*</sup> *That* rose is beautiful.

That's the problem.

He gave Jane that rose.

He gave her *that* to win the love *that* he craved.

The rose *that* he gave Jane made her sneeze. He won't do *that* again.

Now Jane thinks *that* he's thoughtless.

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That, in a nutshell, is the problem.