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 <u>what</u> 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   VxO
I **don't know what** you **want.**
What is a clause word in completer clause. Sentence order, not question order.

SUMMARY OF TRADITIONAL VS X-WORD TERMINOLOGY
X-Word terminology in blue
traditionally, a string of words with a SUBJECT verb+ (info?)

Clause   In this book a clause <u>without a CW</u> is a TRUNK; a clause <u>with a CW</u> is called a clause.

independent   TRUNK
clause

                   Shifters   adverbial clauses
dependent or   Describers   adjective (relative) clauses (defining/restrictive)
subordinate clauses Completers   noun clauses

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.

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* *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.