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Pre-Intermediate

The True Color of
Writing

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With Answers

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Background of the Book

Early drafts -----	2010 -----
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The True Color of Writing -----	2013 -----

About the Book

Many of us may be good users of English in terms of speaking (and other skills); however, when it comes to writing, it is not surprising that ESL students come up with comments such as "my writing is very poor, even in my mother tongue.", "I can't write grammatically correct sentences.", etc.

Throughout the period of time that I have done teaching in Iran I have noticed the common problems that my students would face in writing. These problems were fundamental, and therefore I decided to take matters into my own hands and developed *The True Color of Writing*.

The first and second chapters *The Clause* and *The Sentence* introduce learners to the writing of grammatically correct sentences in English. They also guide learners in using correct punctuation when the learners form English sentences. These two chapters include practical exercises that will test the learners' ability to comprehend the issues discussed in the book, and they will measure the learners' progress in writing.

The third chapter *The Paragraph* deals with paragraph writing. This chapter introduces the basic components of the paragraph, including the topic sentence and the supporting sentences. It also explains how to write multiple paragraphs and how to avoid including irrelevant statements.

The last chapter *The Letter* concerns writing letters, both formal and personal. In this chapter, learners become familiar with the layout of a letter and the types of letters in English.

The True Color of Writing can be used as a self-study book; in other words, students can use the book independently to acquire the knowledge that they consider necessary. Or it can be used as a writing course; the teacher can either choose to teach the whole material in the book or use the chapters they desire.

The Clause

A **clause** is a group of words that has at least one subject and at least one predicate.

A **predicate** is the verb plus the rest of the words that come after the verb.

Example

Robert went to the park yesterday.

In this example, *Robert* is the subject and *went to the park yesterday* is the predicate.

Are the following examples clauses?

- **Peter and Jenny**
- **Cooks dinner**
- **In the morning**

The first example *Peter and Jenny* is not a clause because it does not have a predicate (verb + the rest). The second example *Cooks dinner* is not a clause because it does not contain a subject. The third example *In the morning* is not a clause because it has neither a subject nor a verb.

Sometimes clauses contain only a subject and a verb; the verb is not followed by anything.

Example

Tom slept.

In this example, although nothing comes after the verb *slept*, this group of words *Tom slept* is still a clause. This is possible if the clause includes an intransitive verb, a verb that has no direct object.

Short answers are also considered a clause.

Example

Yes, he is.

No, she hasn't.

We will.

An **imperative clause** is a clause that contains an imperative verb, a verb that expresses an order, and does not usually contain a subject.

Example

Close your eyes.
Leave the door open, please.
Take a deep breath.
Wash the vegetables thoroughly before eating.
Be careful!
Don't smoke in the waiting room.
Don't be hasty.

Exercise 1 A

Are the following clauses or not? Write YES or NO.

1. Jim has a car *YES*
2. With my friend *NO*
3. This bird can't fly
4. After having lunch
5. If he opens the door
6. Yes, he does
7. Jane has a
8. Sara has
9. Bob will work this evening
10. Go

Exercise 1 B

Write ten clauses.

Types of Clauses

There are two types of clauses: **main clauses** and **dependent clauses**.

A **main clause** is a clause that has a complete grammatical structure [subject + verb (+ the rest)] and a complete meaning.

Example

Robin is busy with a customer at the moment.
Jane was working.

A **dependent clause** is a clause that has a complete grammatical structure [subject + v the rest)], but not a complete meaning.

Example

**If you are hungry
Before Stepania plays the piano**

It is sometimes hard to differentiate between a main clause and a dependent clause.

Check if the following clauses are main or dependent.

- **I like it**
- **She is smart**

Although the above clauses do not specify what *it* and who *she* refer to, both of them are main clauses. The best way to identify dependent clauses is by checking the beginning of the clause. Dependent clauses always start with a **clause adverb**, also called an adverb connector.

The following are some clause adverbs that come at the beginning of a dependent clause.

Clause Adverbs

Time

before, after, when, while, as, since, as soon as, once, the moment (that), until, as long as, by the time, whenever.

Cause

because, as, since, inasmuch as, now (that), in that, so (that), on the grounds that, in order that.

Condition

if, as long as, on condition (that), providing (that), provided (that), unless, in case, whether, even if, no matter how, or else, however many.

Contrast

although, though, even though, while, whereas.

Other

Where, except (that), wherever.

Clauses that begin with the above adverbs are dependent clauses. However, other type adverbs may come at the beginning of clauses which are not necessarily dependent clauses. They may be main clauses.

Example

Usually Jim asks awkward questions.
Recently Terry took a job as a cashier.
Maybe when I have free time

In the first two examples, *usually* and *recently* are not clause adverbs. So whether the two clauses in these examples contain these adverbs or not, these clauses have a complete meaning and they are, therefore, main clauses.

In the third example, *maybe* is not a clause adverb; however, if we omit it, the clause still does not have a complete meaning because *maybe* is followed by the clause adverb *when*, and therefore this clause is dependent.

Exercise 2 A

Are the following clauses main (M) or dependent (D)?

1. Until we find the ring
2. Mike and Tom are roommates
3. Because Jerry is sick
4. When he opened the door
5. Sometimes Linda plays tennis
6. When did he arrive?
7. Though Sam was tired
8. Whereas Tim finished the report in time
9. Finally he could relax
10. She couldn't sleep after drinking coffee

Exercise 2 B

Write ten main clauses and ten dependent clauses.

The True Color of Writing

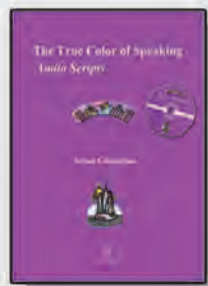
Pre-Intermediate by Sevan Ghazarian

The True Color of Writing: Pre-Intermediate is the book that teaches learners of English writing skills at basic and intermediate levels. The book can also be used by advanced level students who feel that their writing is not satisfactory. This exercise-rich book will lead learners to accurately express their thoughts in written form.

Key Features of The True Color of Writing

- Clause and sentence types
- The structure of the paragraph
- Composing personal and formal letters
- A myriad of exercises in writing sentences and paragraphs
- Numerous grammar exercises
- Sample letters of different types
- Answer key

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