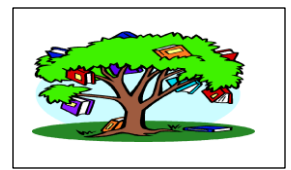


Toward Better Literacy: Reference Outlines



Embedded Clauses

A clause beginning with a subordinating conjunction (if, when) can combine with the main clause to:

+ **Modify**

Kids don't go to school if it is snowing. (Adverb)

The town where I grew up has grown up itself. (Adjective)

+ **Complement** (an object of a verb)

She can do whatever she sets her mind to.

“That” is by far the most used “complementizer,” so much so that often you can omit it.

+ **Using “that”**

I think that she is beautiful.

+ **Omit “that”**

She thinks I am the “cat’s meow.”

Other complementizers are “question words” such as when, why, where, when (“wh” words)

+ **Use them for questions**

Why does my heart go on beating?

+ **As a complement**

I am grateful when I realize my heart goes on beating.

From these examples, we can make a few **key observations**:

- The same word can have a different grammatical function in a different context.
- Not all **embedded clauses** begin with a complementizer.
- Not all sentences that contain question words are actually questions.
- The word order of direct questions is different from that of **indirect questions** or **reported speech**.