

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE FUNCTIONING AS AN ADJECTIVE (RELATIVE CLAUSE)

A subordinate clause functioning as an adjective serves the following two functions :

1. Qualifying a noun :

- (i) 'The man who was fat died yesterday.'

In the above sentence, 'The man dies yesterday' is the principal clause and 'who was fat' is subordinate relative clause qualifying the noun 'man'.

- (ii) 'The person who teaches is called a teacher.'

In the above sentence, 'The person is called a teacher' is the principal clause and 'who teaches' is subordinate relative clause qualifying the noun 'person'.

- (iii) 'The farmers who live beside the river can use its water for irrigation.'

In the above sentence, 'The farmers can use its water for irrigation' is the principal clause and 'who live beside the river' is subordinate clause qualifying the noun 'farmers'.

2. Qualifying a pronoun :

- (i) 'He who works hard is sure to succeed.'

In the above sentence, 'He is sure to succeed' is the principal clause and 'who works hard' is subordinate relative clause qualifying the pronoun 'he'.

- (ii) 'All that glitters is not always gold.'

In the above sentence, 'All is not always gold' is the principal clause and 'that glitters' is subordinate relative clause qualifying the noun 'all'.

- (iii) 'God helps those who help themselves.'

In the above sentence, 'God helps those' is the principal clause and 'who help themselves' is subordinate relative clause qualifying the pronoun 'those'.