



## Grammatical Structure as an Aid to Understanding

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Structure as related to clauses and sentences is called “syntax.” Webster defines “syntax” as “...the due arrangement of word forms to show their mutual relations in a sentence.” We will not enumerate these syntactical relations in conjunction with the similar relations that exist between sentences. Together they will be termed “paragrammatical relations.” The following list will not be exhaustive but will rather indicate some of the more important connections.

1. The relationship of subject or verb. The subject may be a noun, pronoun, infinitive, gerund, or dependent clause.
2. The relation of verb to predicate, which may involve a direct object, an indirect object, a predicate noun, a predicate adjective or adjectival clause, or an adverbial clause.
3. The relation of modifier to modified includes adjectives, participles, adverbs, articles, demonstrative pronouns, prepositional phrases, and adjectival and adverbial clauses.
4. The relation of a preposition to object.
5. The relation of pronoun to antecedent.
6. The relation of independent (coordinate) clauses to each other in compound sentences and the relation of dependent (subordinate) and independent clauses in complex sentences. Some of the various kinds of independent and dependent clauses may be described by the following names: relative, subordinate causal, local, subordinate comparative, temporal, purpose, result, conditional, concessive, substantival, indirect discourse, coordinate causal, and coordinate comparative.

The relations between the different types of clauses are indicated for the most part by coordinate and subordinate connectives, the chief of which will now be mentioned. Some of them will be expressed by prepositional phrases, which serve as connectives. They will be placed under four classes and Biblical reference will

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be given for them. The categories are as follows: temporal or chronological, local or geographical, logical, and emphatic.

1. Temporal or Chronological connectives
  - 1.1. after (Revelation 11:11)
  - 1.2. as (Acts 16:16)
  - 1.3. before (John 8:58)
  - 1.4. now (Luke 16:25)
  - 1.5. then (I Corinthians 15:6)
  - 1.6. until (Mark 14:25)
  - 1.7. when (John 11:31)
  - 1.8. while (Mark 14:43)
2. Local or Geographical connectives
  - 2.1. where (Hebrews 6:20)
3. Logical connectives
  - 3.1. Reason
    - 3.1.1. because (Romans 1:25)
    - 3.1.2. for (Romans 1:11)
    - 3.1.3. since (Romans 1:28)
  - 3.2. Result
    - 3.2.1. so (Romans 9:16)
    - 3.2.2. then (Galatians 2:21)
    - 3.2.3. therefore (I Corinthians 10:12)
    - 3.2.4. thus (I Corinthians 8:12)
  - 3.3. Purpose
    - 3.3.1. in order that (Romans 4:16)
    - 3.3.2. so that (Romans 5:21)
  - 3.4. Contrast
    - 3.4.1. although (Romans 1:21)
    - 3.4.2. but (Romans 2:8)
    - 3.4.3. much more (Romans 5:15)
    - 3.4.4. nevertheless (I Corinthians 10:5)
    - 3.4.5. otherwise (I Corinthians 14:16)
    - 3.4.6. yet (Romans 5:14)
  - 3.5. Comparison
    - 3.5.1. also (II Corinthians 1:11)
    - 3.5.2. as (Romans 15:8)
    - 3.5.3. as – so (Romans 5:18)
    - 3.5.4. just as – so (Romans 11:30-31)
    - 3.5.5. likewise (Romans 1:27)

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- 3.5.6. so also (Romans 4:6)
- 3.6. Series of Facts
  - 3.6.1. and (Romans 2:19)
  - 3.6.2. first of all (I Timothy 2:1)
  - 3.6.3. last of all (I Corinthians 15:8)
  - 3.6.4. or (II Corinthians 6:15)
- 3.7. Condition
  - 3.7.1. if (Romans 2:19)
- 4. Emphatic connectives
  - 4.1. indeed (Romans 9:25)
  - 4.2. only (I Corinthians 8:9)

Several facts should be noted in regard to these relations between clauses and sentences.

First, the four categories employed are not mutually exclusive. For example, a temporal connective may also imply a logical relation. Moreover, some of the same connectives may be found in more than one category.

Second, many of these same relations are operative within clauses as well as between clauses. The use of similes and metaphors, for instance, involved comparison. For an excellent illustration of this see the parables of Matthew 13.

Third, sometimes clauses and sentences are related implicitly rather than explicitly. Therefore, the mere absence of expressed connections does not mean that they are unrelated. At times one may need to infer relations from a study of the thoughts expressed or from the comparative positions of the clauses or sentences in question. Note for example, Hebrews 8:5.

(Adapted from Methodical Bible Study. Robert Traina.)