

## A Clause Quiz

Locate the dependent clauses in the following sentences by placing them in brackets; label them subordinate or relative, and tell how each functions in the complete sentence.

1. Potato gnomes will protest vigorously [whenever potatoes are harvested without proper deference].

T. 2/2/11 11:33 PM

**Comment:** This is an adverbial subordinate clause telling when those pesky gnomes will protest.

2. Potatoes, [whether you think of them as tubers or vegetables], are valuable sources of starch-filled calories.

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**Comment:** This is also an adverbial subordinate clause; this one is modifying the remainder of the sentence.

3. Gnomes, [whatever people say about them], appreciate starch-filled calories.

T. 2/2/11 11:36 PM

**Comment:** Relative clause (the opening "whatever" is the direct object of the clause); the clause is adjectival, describing "gnomes."

4. Think about this for a moment [before you dismiss this as another stupid grammar sentence about gnomes].

T. 2/2/11 11:37 PM

**Comment:** An adverbial subordinate clause modifying at least the verb if not the remainder of the sentence.

5. Gnomes [that I have known] are plump creatures [which like their food].

T. 2/2/11 11:38 PM

**Comment:** Relative clause ("that" is direct object of the clause) modifying "gnomes."

T. 2/2/11 11:39 PM

**Comment:** Relative clause ("which" is subject of the clause) modifying "creatures."

6. [Who better to understand starchy foodstuffs than a plump little creature?]

T. 2/2/11 11:45 PM

**Comment:** As it stands this is not a complete sentence, although the verb "is" is clearly implied. Even with that verb, though, there are no dependent clauses here. In this sentence, "who" is an interrogative pronoun, not relative.

7. [Whatever position you take], stupid sentence or intriguing factoid, will depend upon the dual joys of grammar and spuds.

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**Comment:** Relative clause acting as subject of the entire sentence.