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A dependent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and predicate but cannot stand alone to act as a simple sentence. A dependent clause is used as one of three parts of speech:

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Because I was very tired last night, I went to sleep while the news was on. (Tells why I went to sleep)

After you finish your work, you may rest until dinner is ready. (Both clauses tell when you may rest)

John ran ***as though he were racing the wind.*** (Tells how John ran)

Unless I get another job, I cannot pay all my bills. (Tells under what conditions the bills cannot be paid)

If I don't finish my chemistry lab, I cannot pass the class. (Tells why I cannot pass the class or under what conditions I may not pass)