CHAPTER TWO  Identifying clauses and clause constituents

ANSWERS

1  Functional labels have Initial Capitals; structural labels are *italics* (NB some of the terms below are new)

CLAUSE COMPLEX

clause 1: *independent, finite*

The owner of a Greek Restaurant which sparked off a late-night street brawl has played down the incident,

+ clause 2: *dependent, non-finite*

... dismissing claims that more than 100 revellers were in the fight.

CLAUSE 1

Subject: *nominal group*

The owner of a Greek Restaurant which sparked off a late-night street brawl

Predicator: *verbal group*

has played down

Object: *nominal group*

the incident,

**SUBJECT**

Premodifier: *determiner* The

Head: *noun* owner

Postmodifier: *prep. phrase* of a Greek Restaurant which sparked off a late-night street brawl

(= *preposition + nominal group*)

Premodifier: *determiner + adj.* a Greek

Head: *noun* Restaurant

Postmodifier: *embedded clause* which sparked off a late-night street-brawl

Subject: *relative pronoun* which

Predicator: *verbal group* sparked off

Object: *nominal group* a late-night street-brawl

Premodifier: *determiner +* a late-night street

*adjective-noun compound + noun*

Head: *noun* brawl

**PREDICATOR**

Operator: *auxiliary* has

Head: *main verb* played down (NB phrasal verb)

**OBJECT**

Premodifier: *determiner* the
Head: noun incident

CLAUSE 2

[Subject: nominal group

the owner ... (understood from the finite clause on which this clause depends)]

Pred.: verbal group

discharging (-ing form, or present participle)

Object: nominal group

claims that more than 100 revellers were in the fight.

OBJECT

Head: noun claims

Postmodifier: embedded clause that more than 100 revellers were in the fight.

conjunction that

Subject: nominal group more than 100 revellers

Predicator: verbal group were

Complement: prep. phrase in the fight

(= preposition + nominal group)

SUBJECT

Premodifier: complex numeral more than 100

Head: noun revellers

2

a Home owners; interest rates

b too high; furious

c so callously

d towards a Government that has treated them so callously; in the expanding economies of Asia

e with low inflation; of Asia

f that has treated them so callously; charged in the expanding economies of Asia

g in the Government’s hands

h to hear them deny responsibility

i The dispossessed (NB English allows more or less any adjective describing people to be Head of a
nominal group – e.g. the rich, the poor, the beautiful, the young. The pattern is always ‘the + adjective +
plural verb’ – e.g. ‘the rich are different’)

3

a. [Rose] [put down] [her glass] // and [went] [to the window]

S P O // P A
[She] could see the floodlit tower and lights in the trees by the river.

[Her heart] heaved within her //
as if [it] were some huge thing [[ which [she] had swallowed ]]

[She] suddenly wanted / to sob with joy / and fear.

b. [We animals] are the most complicated things in the known universe

[The universe [[ [that][we][know] ]]] [is] a tiny fragment of the actual universe

[Even more complicated objects than us] may exist on other planets //

and [some of them] may already know [about us]

But [this] doesn’t alter [the point [[ [that][I][want / to make] ]]]


The stated aims of the series [are]: ['to provide short, clear and accessible guides to key topics’]

This is a slim paperback of 128 pages [[ [that] homes in] on key areas of practical value.]]
This is intended as an introductory book to the area, and the main topics cover:

- the nature of grammar;
- relationships between grammar and communication;
- grammar and the syllabus;
- grammar and methodology;
- grammar tasks and language awareness.

(S V O (nominal group complex, with complexes within several of the groups))