

# CLAUSES and Sentences



Objectives: Identify the main clause and other clauses (subordinate clauses) in a complex sentence



1. A **simple sentence** is a group of words which makes complete sense on its own.

- A simple sentence has two parts:  
*Subject:* the person or thing which the sentence is about  
*Predicate:* what is written or said about the subject

*James fell off his motorbike.*

Subject	James
Predicate	fell off his motorbike

- A *clause* is a group of words which contains a verb and is part of a sentence.

## Examples of Clauses

- *when she went shopping*
- *Sue bought a new dress*
- *Richard ate five ice cream cakes*
- *because he was hungry*

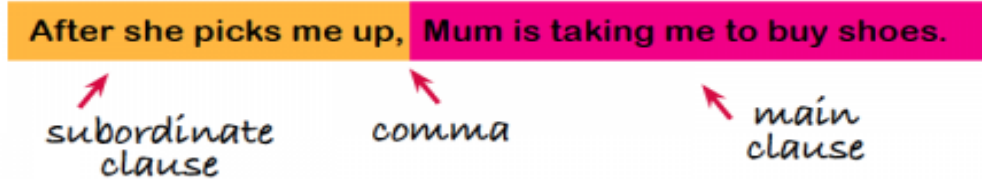
- There are two kinds of clauses:



Main clause is the most important clause. It can stand by itself and make complete sense. (Also called a simple sentence)



**Subordinate clause** is dependent on the main clause for its meaning. (it does not make sense on its own)



**2. Compound Sentences:** joined to one another by a connective/ conjunction. (FANBOYS).

F	A	N	B	O	Y	S
for	and	nor	But	or	Yet	So



**Example** *She went to the shop and bought a box of*

*chocolates.* **A Complex Sentence:** is a sentence that has one main clause (Independent clause) and one or more subordinate clause(s) (dependent clause(s)) joined by a **Subordinating** connective.

## I Saw a Wabub...

...is an acronym to help you remember the first letters of some of the most important subordinating conjunctions.

If

Since

As

When

Although

While

After

Before

Until

Because

I SAW A WABUB!





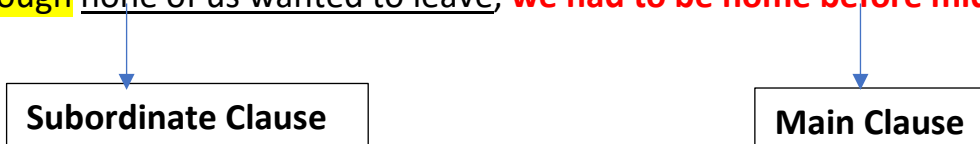
## Exercises:

1. Write “main clause” under the main clause and “subordinate clause” under the subordinate clause. Circle the connective (conjunction).

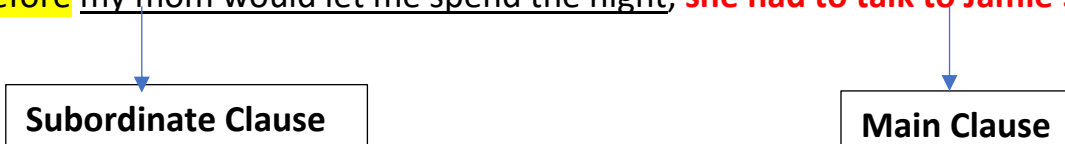
- a. **The mailman wouldn't deliver our mail** **after** my dog bit him in the leg.



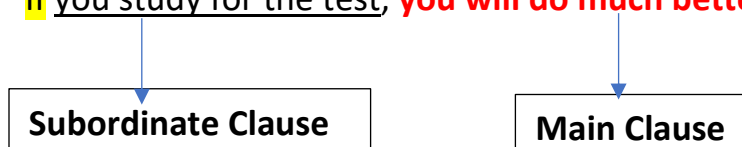
- b. **Although** none of us wanted to leave, **we had to be home before midnight.**



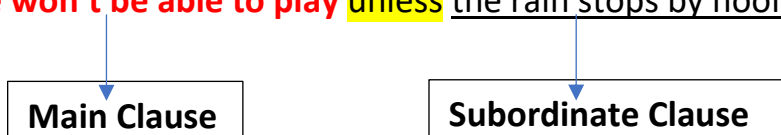
- c. **Before** my mom would let me spend the night, **she had to talk to Jamie's mom.**



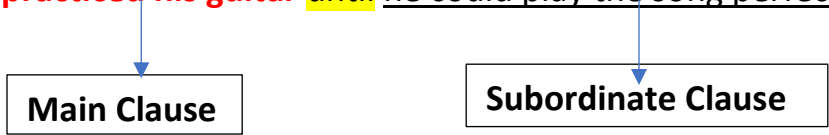
- d. **If** you study for the test, **you will do much better.**



- e. **We won't be able to play** **unless** the rain stops by noon.



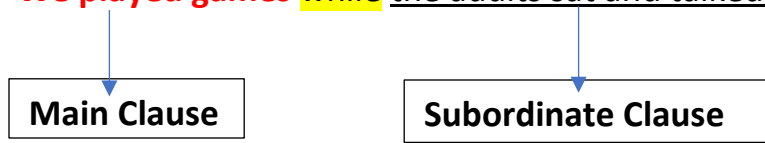
f. **Rex practiced his guitar** **until** he could play the song perfectly.



g. **Whenever** I think about my third-grade teacher, **I have a warm feeling inside.**



h. **We played games** **while** the adults sat and talked.



1. Write a subordinate clause to finish each sentence. The first one has been done to help you.

a) Sophie was friends with the giant although she was a little scared of him.

b) She saw many elephants when **she went to the zoo with her mum.**

c) The children shivered in the cold wind although **they were wearing their jackets.**

d) You can't have sweet unless **you finish your homework.**

2. Use subordinating conjunctions (though, if, when, because, etc.) to form a complex sentence.

a. I fell over. I hurt my knee.

**When I fell over, I hurt my knee.**

b. The game ended. The referee blew his whistle.

**The game ended after the referee blew his whistle.**

c. She couldn't ride her bike. It had a puncture.

**She couldn't ride her bike because it had a puncture.**

d. I couldn't spell that word. I fetched the dictionary.

**Since I couldn't spell that word, I fetched the dictionary.**

e. We arrived on time. The train was delayed.

**Although we arrived on time, the train was delayed.**

f. Henry needs to learn English. I will teach him.

**If Henry needs to learn English, I will teach him.**

g. It was raining outside. We went for a walk.

**Although it was raining outside, we went for a walk**

### **3. Decide whether the following are simple, compound or complex sentences:**

a. Yesterday we went to a party, but we didn't enjoy our time. **compound**

b. Daniel bought a car. **simple**

c. The weather is not very cold; however, I will wear my jacket. **complex**

d. If I were you, I would take my time with that project. **complex**

- e. Although I felt he was wrong, I decided to trust him. **complex**
- f. We had a wonderful dinner after she had arrived. **complex**
- g. Everyone was busy, so I went to the movie alone. **compound**
- h. I really want to buy some new clothes. **simple**