

Main and Subordinate Clauses

Understanding Clauses

A **clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. There are two main types of clauses:

1. **Main Clause** (Independent Clause): A complete thought that can stand alone as a sentence.
2. **Subordinate Clause** (Dependent Clause): Contains a subject and a verb but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

How to Identify Main Clauses

A main clause:

- Contains a subject and a verb
- Expresses a complete thought
- Can stand alone as a sentence
- Makes sense on its own

Examples:

- The dog barked.
- She opened the door.
- The children played in the park.

How to Identify Subordinate Clauses

A subordinate clause:

- Contains a subject and a verb
- Does not express a complete thought
- Cannot stand alone as a sentence
- Often begins with a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun

Common examples: because, since, although, when, while, if, unless, until, before, after, as, though

Relative pronouns: who, whom, whose, which, that

Examples:

- ...because it was raining
- ...when the bell rang
- ...who lives next door

Putting It Together

When we combine main and subordinate clauses, we create complex sentences:

Main clause + Subordinate clause:

- The children went inside **because it was raining**.
- They finished the game **after the sun set**.

Subordinate clause + Main clause:

- **When the bell rang**, everyone left the classroom.
- **Although it was difficult**, they completed the challenge.

Activity 1:

There are 15 sentences. Identify the underlined parts to be **main clause** or **subordinate clause**.

Type “**MC**” for main clause, “**SC**” for subordinate clause.

1. They ran to the beach because there was a whale on the shore.
2. They ran to the beach because there was a whale on the shore.
3. When I was young, I had a pet cat and a pet frog.
4. When I was young, I had a pet cat and a pet frog.
5. Although the date is not confirmed, the school will close down.
6. Adam runs to the shopping mall when he heard about the sale.
7. Adam runs to the shopping mall when he heard about the sale.
8. If she passes this examination, she will get a new bicycle.
9. Whenever you enter a shop, you have to scan the QR code
10. Whenever you enter a shop, you have to scan the QR code.
11. Criminals need to be captured so the local crime rate will drop.
12. I enjoy burgers and fries so I will buy it when I get the chance.
13. I enjoy burgers and fries so I will buy it when I get the chance.
14. Students should pay attention when the teacher is explaining.
15. Some students are not interested in reading though it is a critical learning skill.

Activity 2: Match the main clause to the correct subordinate clause

Main Clauses:

1. The movie was exciting
2. They went to bed early
3. We couldn't go swimming
4. The dog ran around the yard
5. She studied hard for the test

Subordinate Clauses:

- A. because they were tired
- B. although it was very long
- C. when its owner threw the ball
- D. because the pool was closed
- E. so that she would get a good grade

Activity 3: Find the Word Class

1. Which is the main clause in "After I finish my homework, I will play video games"?

- a) After I finish my homework
- b) I will play video games
- c) After I finish
- d) my homework

2. Which is the subordinate clause in "The cat jumped onto the table when no one was looking"?

- a) The cat jumped onto the table
- b) jumped onto the table
- c) when no one was looking
- d) The cat

3. In the sentence "Because it was snowing, school was canceled," the main clause is:

- a) Because it was snowing
- b) it was snowing
- c) school was canceled
- d) Because it was snowing, school

4. Which sentence contains a subordinate clause?

- a) The dog barked and the cat hissed.
- b) We went to the store.
- c) The movie was exciting.
- d) When it rains, the ground gets wet.

5. In the sentence "The boy who won the race received a medal," the subordinate clause is:

- a) The boy received a medal
- b) who won the race
- c) received a medal
- d) The boy who