

## Subordinate clauses

A clause is ...

a group of words that could be a sentence.

It has ...

a subject – it is about something.

a verb – the subject *does, feels or is* something, or something is *done* to it.

## Subordinate clauses

A clause is a *clause* and not a *sentence* when...

it joins with another *clause* or *phrase* to make one sentence.

For example here are two *sentences*....

He did not hunt.

It was raining.

## Subordinate clauses

If I join these two sentences with a connective they become one longer sentence, with two clauses.

He did not hunt because it was raining.

CLAUSE

CLAUSE

connective

*because* is a subordinating conjunction

## Subordinate clauses

A main clause gives the main point of a sentence.

A subordinate clause provides extra information.

He did not hunt because it was raining.

**MAIN CLAUSE** – the main point of my sentence.

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** – extra information linked to the main clause.

The *conjunction* shows the relationship between the two clauses.

## Subordinate clauses

Remember, the subordinate information can come at the start of a sentence. If a sentence starts with a subordinating conjunction (connective), it is starting with the subordinate clause.

*subordinating conjunction*

a comma is often used between clauses

As the sun was setting, the tiger stalked her prey.

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** – extra information linked to the main clause.

**MAIN CLAUSE** – the main point.

## Subordinate clauses

A subordinate clause can also be embedded within a main clause. The extra information is added in the middle of the main clause. Note the *two comma trick*.

MAIN CLAUSE begins

MAIN CLAUSE ends

The tiger, who was ravenous, stalked her prey.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE –  
extra information linked  
to the main clause.

2 commas used to  
separate the embedded  
subordinate clause.

Now complete the activity

Write out the sentences in your neatest handwriting and complete the task.

If you are able to print out the page, highlight or underline the **subordinate clause** in each sentence

As fast as she could, Sally typed on her computer.

Bobbing up and down, the boat was sailing in the sea.

The teacher, who was strict, shouted at the class.

With a whisper, Dr Doom announced his evil plan.

The villains, Dr Doom and Professor Chaos, plotted their next move.

At 9 O'clock in the evening, the party was in full swing.

Harry ran down the lane whilst laughing uncontrollably.

Add a **main clause** to these **subordinate clauses**

a) Whilst the sun was shining, \_\_\_\_\_

b) When he shouted, \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_, who had red lipstick, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complete these sentences by adding a **subordinate clause**

The dogs, \_\_\_\_\_, were playing together.

\_\_\_\_\_, we played games on the beach.

The classroom, \_\_\_\_\_, was a nice place to be.