

MULTI-CLAUSE SENTENCES



Multi-clause sentences

- Year 4 - Subordinate clauses
- Year 5 - Relative clauses
- Year 6 - A range of clauses - choosing the most appropriate context

Main clauses

- A main clause, sometimes called an independent clause, must contain a **subject** and a **verb** and express a complete thought.

E.g. The **dog** **barked**.

Subject



Verb



Multi-clause Sentences

- They are sentences containing more than one clause.
- They can be a mix of main, subordinate and relative clauses.
- Main clauses make sense on their own - therefore every sentence needs one.

- Subordinate clause - a dependent clause that does not make sense on its own therefore needs a subordinating conjunction at the beginning e.g. although, as, after, before.
- Relative clause - a dependent clause that gives extra information about a noun and begins with a relative pronoun e.g. who, whose, which, that.
- All relative clauses are subordinate clauses. However, not all subordinate clauses are relative clauses. Relative clauses must include a relative pronoun.

Subordinate clauses

A subordinate clause (also called a *dependent clause*) will begin with a **subordinating conjunction**. A subordinate clause will not form a complete sentence.

The men climbed.

The men climbed as the moonlight shone from above.

As the moonlight shone from above, the men climbed.

<p>Main clause</p> <p>Subordinate clause</p>
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Relative clauses

A relative clause describes more about the noun and is introduced by a relative pronoun e.g. who, whose, which, that.

Can you identify the noun in the sentence below?

The mermaid sang.

The **mermaid**, who was extremely beautiful, sang.

Noun
Relative clause

Multi-clause sentences

The girl danced.

- Can you write a sentence using a subordinate clause?
- Can you write a sentence using a relative clause?
- Can you write a sentence using both?

Q1.

Which sentence contains a **relative clause**?

Tick one.

The boy who I met at the park is in my class.

The team is going to play a match tomorrow.

Sue said that she wanted to learn to play the drums.

Whenever they have time, they like to go cycling.

Q2.

Underline the **subordinate** clause in each sentence below.

One has been done for you.

Lucy enjoyed playing football, especially when James asked her to take part.

When she was standing next to her brother, Anita looked very tall.

Even though he had little patience, Robert enjoyed chess.

Sue's skills were good although she had not been playing for long.

They finished the walk, which seemed never-ending.

Q3.

Which sentence **starts** with a subordinate clause?

Tick one.

Elena, who was good at science, wanted to be a vet.

Even though it was difficult, she was determined to succeed.

Elena loved all kinds of animals, especially horses.

She wanted a dog because she enjoyed caring for animals.