



Clauses

A clause is a bit of a sentence that contains both a subject and a verb — they're pretty greedy.

1. In the table below, tick to show whether the words in bold are phrases or clauses.

Sentence	Phrase	Clause
Jim and Julie go dancing every other afternoon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our family goes to Wales during the holidays .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merlin completed the test incredibly quickly .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The children played out in the fresh air.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Match each clause to the correct label below.

I am on my way to Manchester

although I don't like pork pies

because the sun is shining

they're determined to win

despite what they say

main clause

subordinate clause

3. Underline the main clause in each of these sentences.

Since it was Christine's birthday, Tony made her breakfast in bed.

Joanne kept eating sweets until the bag was empty.

Granny and Grandpa will take us to the park if there's time.

While you tickle the cat, I'll shampoo the parrot.



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4. Tick the sentences that contain a subordinate clause, and underline the subordinate clauses.

- a. I was late for work because my car broke down.
- b. My car broke down, and I was late for work.
- c. When my car broke down, I was late for work.

Subordinate clauses don't make sense on their own — they have to be joined to a main clause.

5. Make each pair of sentences below into one sentence, making sure that each sentence contains a main clause and a subordinate clause. Underline the subordinate clause in your answer.

E.g. **Mary went to the shop. She needed to buy some milk.**

Mary went to the shop because she needed to buy some milk.

a. It was raining. We played tennis.

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b. I chopped the carrots. My sister chopped the parsnips.

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6. Write a subordinate clause for each of these sentences.

a., she set off to the park.

b. We would have missed the bus

c. The elephants were very happy

d., they still had fun.

Grammagators are sharp when it comes to clauses. Can you spot different clauses too? Tick a box.

