

# IDENTIFYING CLAUSES

WEEK 13

# TERMINOLOGY

- ▶ A **main clause** is a group of words that contains a verb and a subject which makes complete sense on its own. They are used in English grammar. A **main clause** can form a complete sentence on its own. ... A predicate adds information about the subject.
- ▶ A **subordinate clause** is a **clause** that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence; it merely complements a sentence's main **clause**, thereby adding to the whole unit of **meaning**. Because a **subordinate clause** is dependent upon a main **clause** to be meaningful, it is also referred to as a dependent **clause**.

# INTRODUCTION

The main clause is underlined in the sentence below.

Explain how you know that this is the main clause.

Beyond the trees, far into the distance, rose the snow-capped hills of the Pennines.

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Explain how you know that this is the main clause.

Beyond the trees, far into the distance, rose the snow-capped hills of the Pennines.

The clause makes sense on its own which means that it is a main clause.

# FLUENCY

**Underline the main clause in the sentence below.**

**Leila's grandfather, who fought in Germany during the Second World War, had walked with a limp ever since.**

# FLUENCY

Underline the main clause in the sentence below.

Leila's grandfather, who fought in Germany during the Second World War, had walked with a limp ever since.

# FLUENCY

**Add a pair of commas to the sentence below to separate the main and subordinate clause.**

**The garden which was in full bloom was being enjoyed by the family at the BBQ.**

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Add a pair of commas to the sentence below to separate the main and subordinate clause.

The garden, **which was in full bloom**, was being enjoyed by the family at the BBQ.



# FLUENCY

In which sentence is the subordinate clause underlined?

A. Even though the snow was falling and it was getting heavier by the minute, the children managed to get to school on time.

B. Even though the snow was falling and it was getting heavier by the minute, the children managed to get to school on time.

# FLUENCY

In which sentence is the subordinate clause underlined?

A. Even though the snow was falling and it was getting heavier by the minute, the children managed to get to school on time.

B. Even though the snow was falling and it was getting heavier by the minute, the children managed to get to school on time.

# FLUENCY

Tick the correct box to show whether the underlined clause is a main (M) or subordinate (S) clause.

As the wind whistled through the trees, the group decided it was time to head home.

M

S

☐☐

As the weather was getting better, the children were allowed to play on the field.

☐☐

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As the weather was getting better, the children were allowed to play on the field.

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# APPLICATION

**Complete the sentence by adding a main clause before the subordinate clause.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ despite the weather being  
horrendous.**

# APPLICATION

Complete the sentence by adding a main clause before the subordinate clause.

\_\_\_\_\_ despite the weather being horrendous.

Various answers, for example:

The match went ahead as planned, despite the weather being horrendous.

# APPLICATION

**Add a subordinate clause to the sentence below.**

**Begin your subordinate clause with a relative pronoun.**

**Class 6, \_\_\_\_\_, were asked to calm  
down by their teacher.**

# APPLICATION

Add a subordinate clause to the sentence below.

Begin your subordinate clause with a relative pronoun.

**Class 6, \_\_\_\_\_, were asked to calm down by their teacher.**

**Various answers, for example:**

**Class 6, who were being very noisy, were asked to calm down by their teacher.**



# REASONING

Harkan thinks he has underlined the subordinate clause in the sentence below.

After his visit to the dentist, James became  
more conscious of how much sugar he was  
consuming.

Is he correct? Explain how you know.

# REASONING

Harkan thinks he has underlined the subordinate clause in the sentence below.

After his visit to the dentist, James became more conscious of how much sugar he was consuming.

Is he correct? Explain how you know.

No, he is not correct because the subordinate clause is 'After his visit to the dentist' which does not make sense on its own. The underlined part of the sentence is a main clause, which makes sense on its own.