

Main and subordinate clauses

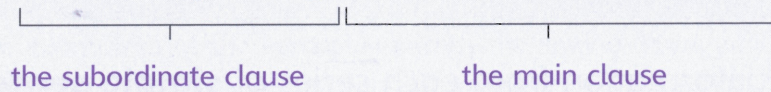


Complex sentences are made up of at least two parts, or **clauses**. One part is the **main clause**. The **main clause** makes sense by itself. The other part is the **subordinate clause**. The **subordinate clause** gives extra information. It does not make sense if you read it without the main clause.

For example: The man became angry when no-one would let him in.



Screaming wildly, she ran from the house.



1. Read these complex sentences. Draw a solid line under the **main clause** and draw a broken line under the **subordinate clause**.

- a) The dog snarled at her, growling menacingly.
- b) With his heart pounding, Dean stepped forward.
- c) While she was reading, the doorbell rang.
- d) The lights came on one at a time until the whole street was lit up.
- e) When the factory closed, many people lost their jobs.
- f) Stretch the fabric over the card, folding the edges under neatly.



2. The **subordinate clause** can be added at the beginning or end of the sentence. Rewrite these sentences, moving the **subordinate clause** to the start of the sentence.

- a) Everything was quiet until the storm began.

- b) The man strolled along the street humming merrily.

- c) The match was still a draw despite playing extra time.
