

The rooster is crowing.  
subject → verb

My friend loves dogs.  
subject verb object

# Clauses and Sentences

## Unit Two



# Simple and compound sentences

All sentences are made up of **clauses**.

A **simple sentence** consists of one **independent clause**. It makes sense on its own because its meaning is complete.

For example: **Mark ate the cake**.

A **compound sentence** is made up of two independent clauses (two simple sentences) joined together by a **coordinate conjunction**.

Mark ate the cake **and** he enjoyed it.

independent clause

independent clause

conjunction



# Simple or compound?



# Understanding complex sentences

Now let's think about **complex sentences**.

Look at the three sentences below:

1. Mr. Farrell, **who is our English teacher**, often gives fun assignments.
2. I hate my wool socks **because they itch me like crazy!**
3. **Whenever she can**, Dionne goes to the gym.



**Now compare the sentences without the words in green.**

1. Mr. Farrell often gives fun assignments.
2. I hate my wool socks.
3. Dionne goes to the gym.

**Did the extra words make any difference?**



# Understanding complex sentences

1. Mr. Farrell, **who is our English teacher**, often gives fun assignments.
2. I hate my wool socks **because they itch me like crazy!**
3. **Whenever she can**, Dionne goes to the gym.

The extra words provide us with additional information about the **nouns** or **verbs** in the sentences.

They tell us that:

- Mr. Farrell is an English teacher (not a science, math or PE teacher, etc.)
- the speaker does not like the socks because they feel itchy (not because of the color or pattern, etc.)
- Dionne goes to the gym whenever she is able to (not just once or twice a week, etc.).



# Independent and subordinate clauses

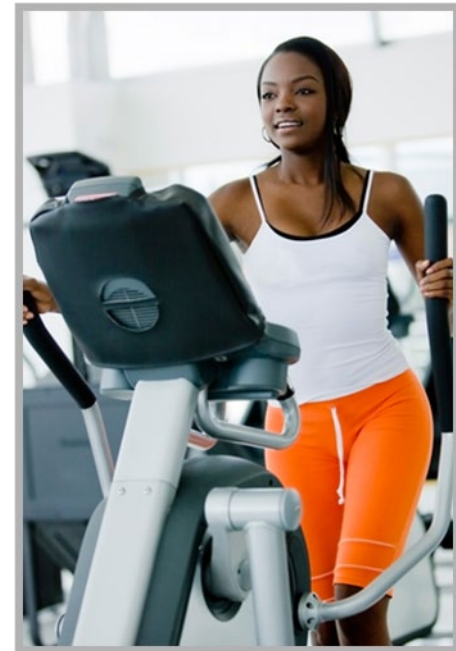
The three sentences we have looked at are all examples of complex sentences.

Complex sentences are sentences that contain an **independent clause** and at least one **subordinate clause**.

**The independent clause gives us the most important information in the sentence. It makes sense on its own.**

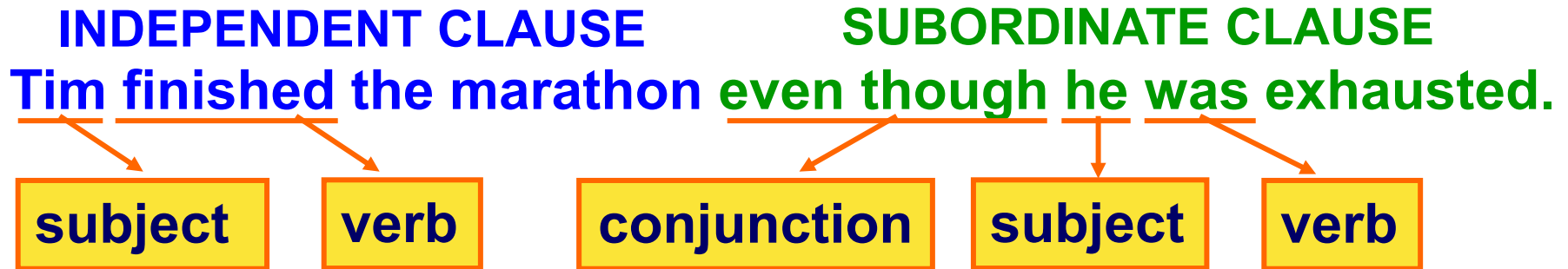
Whenever she can, Dionne goes to the gym.

**The subordinate clause provides us with extra information about the idea in the independent clause. It doesn't make sense on its own.**



# Independent and subordinate clauses

Like an independent clause, a subordinate clause contains a **subject** and a **verb**.



But *unlike* an independent clause, a subordinate clause also contains a **subordinate conjunction**. This is a word which introduces the subordinate clause and links it to the independent clause.

Here are some subordinate conjunctions:

**although**

**because**

**even though**

**that**

**which**

**who**

**despite**

**until**

**if**

**after**

**while**

**as**



Can you find the subordinate conjunctions in these complex sentences?

The butcher was angry **because** the dog ate the bone.

Richmond, **which** is where I live, is a really great place.

**After** I'd been on vacation, it was hard to go back to school.



The subordinate conjunction makes the subordinate clause incomplete. This is why we refer to subordinate clauses as '**dependent**' – they need to be attached to a independent (main) clause in order to make sense!





**Finish these complex sentences by using the conjunctions to link the subordinate clauses to the independent clauses.**

1. I didn't believe it \_\_\_\_\_ I saw it with my own eyes.
2. I will be less tired \_\_\_\_\_ I have a cup of coffee.
3. You are just saying that \_\_\_\_\_ you are jealous!
4. I want to be just like my uncle \_\_\_\_\_ is a policeman.
5. New York, \_\_\_\_\_ is where I was born, is better than Boston.
6. That girl, \_\_\_\_\_ she is, is really annoying!

because



solve



## BINGO!

Can you identify the main and subordinate clauses in a sentence?  
Read each sentence and then answer the question.  
Press **start** to begin.

**start**

