

The rooster is crowing.

subject →

verb ↘

My friend loves dogs.

subject ↗ verb ↘ object ↗

# Clauses and Sentences

## Unit Three



# Types of subordinate clauses

**Complex sentences** are sentences that contain an **independent clause** and a **subordinate clause**.

The subordinate clause provides extra information about aspects of the independent clause.

**subordinate clause**

Mount Kilimanjaro, which is in Tanzania, is 15,100 feet high.

**independent clause**

There are two main types of subordinate clause:

**relative clauses**

and

**adverbial clauses**



The two types of subordinate clause provide different types of information in a sentence.

Relative clauses tell us more about **nouns** (people, places, animals and things) in the independent clause.

My uncle is a pilot, which is what I want to be.

The relative clause tells us more about the noun 'pilot' in the independent clause.

The food *that we ate on vacation* was delicious.



A relative clause comes in the **middle** or at the **end** of an independent clause because it must follow **directly after** the noun that it is telling us more about.

Relative clauses normally begin with **relative pronouns**.  
These are words such as:

**that**

**what**

**who**

**which**

**whose**

**whatever**

**whoever**

Here are some relative clauses.

- **that** I had for lunch
- **whose** book I borrowed
- **whatever** she said
- **whoever** he is
- **which** she wanted to go to

**The sandwich that I had for lunch was delicious!**



**Can you add independent clauses to the other relative clauses to make them into complete sentences?**

Drag each relative clause to the correct place to complete these complex sentences.

1. The pink top, \_\_\_\_\_, is so ugly!



2. My sister is really cool and is a fashion designer,



\_\_\_\_\_



3. My friend, \_\_\_\_\_

which is what I want to be.

whose parents have an indoor pool,

that you said I should read?

which is covered in red spots



hide words

solve



# Adverbial clauses

**Verbs** tell us about actions in the independent clause.

She **plays** soccer.

**Adverbs** tell us how or when an action done.

She plays soccer **every afternoon**.

Sometimes we need a whole group of words to tell us what we need to know about an action.

She plays soccer every afternoon because she is getting ready for the championship.



↑  
**These groups of words are adverbial clauses.**

Adverbial clauses describe verbs in more detail. They tell us **where**, **when**, **why**, **how** and **how much** actions are done.

Adverbial clauses are very flexible – they can go before, in the middle of, or after the independent clause in a sentence.

**Before** he started his homework, Joshua took his dog for a walk.

conjunction

My mom, **even though** I begged her not to, called the school to speak with my teacher.

I will call you **as soon as** I'm finished.

Adverbial clauses begin with **subordinate conjunctions**.

Here are some more:

although

because

since

if

after

despite



# Adverbial or relative?





# Adding subordinate clauses

Rachel has written a paragraph describing her most recent soccer match.

*The referee blew his whistle. The other team took possession of the ball and ran towards our goal. Our goalie blocked their offense and kicked the ball to me. I ran towards their goal and then I passed the ball to my friend. She kicked the ball into their penalty area. I headed the ball into the goal – I scored!*

**Rewrite the paragraph and add some relative and adverbial clauses to make the paragraph more exciting.**



## Do you know how to punctuate complex sentences?

Complex sentences are punctuated in different ways, depending on where the subordinate clause is positioned in the sentence. Here are some general rules:

When the subordinate clause comes **after** the independent clause, no comma is needed.

**Malcolm refused to do his homework because he is lazy.**



When the subordinate clause comes **before** the independent clause, a comma should be placed between the clauses.

**Because he is lazy, Malcolm refused to do his homework.**



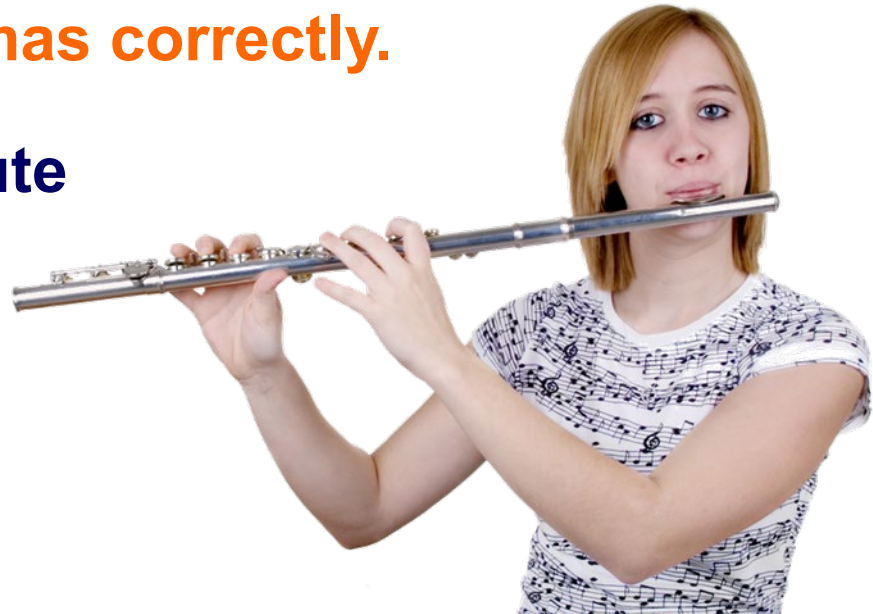
# Punctuating complex sentences

When the subordinate clause comes in the **middle** of the sentence, commas are needed before and after the subordinate clause.

**Malcolm, because he is lazy, refused to do his homework.**

**Try changing the position of the subordinate clause (highlighted in blue) in the following sentence. Make sure you use commas correctly.**

**Katie is practicing her flute every day so that she is ready for her recital.**



**Test what you have learned about adding commas to complex sentences. Press on the answer of your choice.**

**When a sentence begins with a subordinate clause...**

...no comma is needed.

...a comma is needed before and after it.

...one comma is needed after it.



**Can you punctuate these complex sentences correctly?  
Press on the places where you think commas should go.**

1. Before you start criticizing me take a look at yourself!
2. My little brother even though I have told him not to keeps going into my room and stealing my stuff!
3. David paid the bill after finishing his meal.
4. Helen who suddenly realized her mistake quickly turned the car around.
5. I had no idea Keesha and Matt had broken up until I saw Matt with Rachel.
6. Because no one noticed the storm coming in the ship sank.



solve

