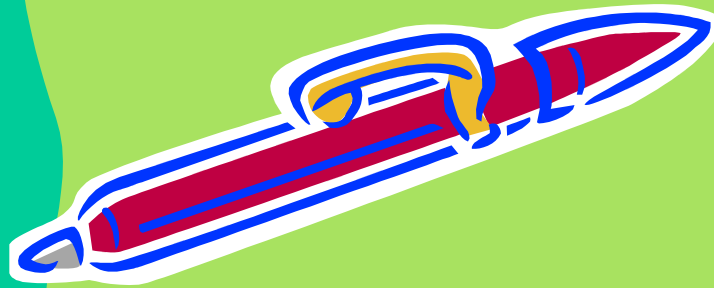


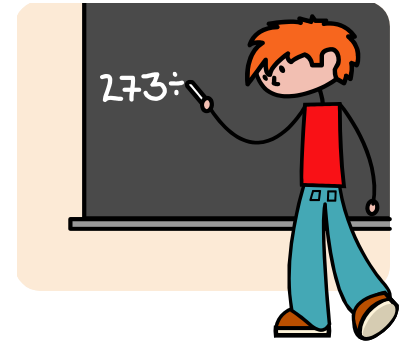
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Key Skills



Creating Complex Sentences

Complex Sentences



Objectives:

- **Reading:** To learn how to recognise the main and subordinate clause within complex sentences.
- **Writing:** To learn how to use the main and subordinate clause to create complex sentences.

What Are Complex Sentences?

Complex sentences are sentences made up of more than one **clause**. A **clause** is a group of words which contain a verb.

Every sentence has a **main clause**. The main clause is the main idea of the sentence and makes sense by itself as a **simple sentence**.

For Example: *My wife is a doctor.*

This is a main clause and a simple sentence.

What Are Complex Sentences?

Complex sentences are formed by adding a subordinate clause to a main clause.

Subordinate clauses add information to the main clause.

For Example: *My wife is a doctor, she works in a hospital in London.*

she works in a hospital in London is a subordinate clause as it gives the reader more information.

To achieve **Level 5** you must be able to use subordinate clauses to create complex sentences.

The Main Clause

Read the following complex sentences.
Can you identify the main clause?

The old woman sat on the park bench, her feet were red and blistered.

The stolen car sped up the hill, chased by two patrol cars.

The flowers, that had bloomed in the spring, were fading fast.

The Main Clause

The old woman sat on the park bench, her feet were red and blistered.

The stolen car sped up the hill, chased by two patrol cars.

The flowers, that had bloomed in the spring, were fading fast.

The Main Clause

Highlight the main clause in the following sentences:

1. *The old woman sat on the park bench, her feet were red and blistered.*
2. *Daniel, who was the bravest of the group, knocked on the door.*
3. *We found ourselves in a weird room, the walls covered in strange scribbles.*
4. *As he carried his plate into the kitchen, Amir tripped over the carpet.*
5. *After a long day at school I had an appointment with the dentist.*
6. *Before opening the door, I took a deep breath.*
7. *Sarah, the best netball player in the school, has been picked to play for England.*

Check Your Understanding

1. *The old woman sat on the park bench, her feet were red and blistered.*
2. *Daniel, who was the bravest of the group, knocked on the door.*
3. *We found ourselves in a weird room, the walls covered in strange scribbles.*
4. *As he carried his plate into the kitchen, Amir tripped over the carpet.*
5. *After a long day at school I had an appointment with the dentist.*
6. *Before opening the door, I took a deep breath.*
7. *Sarah, the best netball player in the school, has been picked to play for England.*

The Subordinate Clause

Read the following complex sentences.
Can you identify the subordinate clause?

The old woman sat on the park bench, her feet were red and blistered.

The stolen car sped up the hill, chased by two patrol cars.

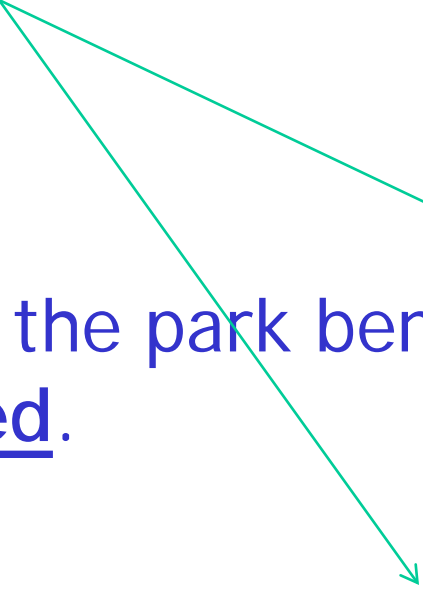
The flowers, that had bloomed in the spring, were fading fast.

The Subordinate Clause

The old woman sat on the park bench, her feet were red and blistered.



The stolen car sped up the hill, chased by two patrol cars.



The flowers, that had bloomed in the spring, were fading fast.

Highlight The Subordinate Clause

1. Steven, a year younger than me, was not allowed to go.
2. The room was filled by a strange noise that echoed through my head.
3. Mum sat on the sofa, while the children played on the floor.
4. The new pupil smiled shyly as she was introduced to the class.
5. The sun, which was now directly overhead, was incredibly hot.
6. The present, wrapped in silver paper, was under the tree.
7. We looked up in surprise when we heard Aisha's scream.
8. I knew I was nearly home because the car was slowing down.
9. Mr Carol, who teaches English, is our new Deputy Head.

Check Your Understanding

1. Steven, a year younger than me, was not allowed to go.
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9. Mr Carol, who teaches English, is our new Deputy Head.

From Simple to Complex Sentences

Add a Subordinate Clause

1. The wind, _____, blew through the abandoned house.
2. The old man, _____, slowly opened his front door.
3. I walked home, _____.
4. _____, the little girl burst into tears.
5. The sun, _____, shone into my bedroom window.
6. The car, _____, struggled up the hill.

From Simple to Complex Sentences

Add a Subordinate Clause

1. Chelsea, _____, scored in the last minute.
2. The old man opened his front door, _____.
3. I ate my tea, _____.
4. _____, the new teacher shouted at Stephen.
5. The moon, _____, illuminated the empty street.
6. The train, _____, pulled into the station.