

Key Vocabulary

main clause: A simple sentence that includes a subject and a verb.

relative clause: A dependent clause that adds more information about the noun or clause directly before it.

dependent clause: A dependent clause can be added to a main clause to make a complex sentence.

subordinate clause: Another word for a dependent clause. Subordinate clauses often start with subordinating conjuctions.

subject: The person, animal or object that is doing or being the verb.

verb: A doing or being word, such as: kicking; walk; touched.

simple sentence: A sentence that contains a subject and a verb with no conjunctions.

complex sentence: A multiclause sentence that includes a main clause and a dependent clause.

What is a complex sentence?

A complex sentence is made up of a main clause and then one or more dependent clauses.

There are two ways of creating dependent clauses:

 by using a subordinating conjunction (e.g. after) to create a subordinate clause, e.g.

The horse galloped after it jumped the fence.

· by adding extra information using a relative clause.

Mr Richardson, who was feeling ravenous, ate some cheese.

Starting Out!

A main clause is a simple sentence that includes a subject and a verb.

The giraffe stretched its neck.

The giant carried the cow.

Craig sat down.

Relative Clause

Will, who enjoyed football, played every week.

Use It!

Now, choose α subordinating conjunction.

The giraffe stretched its neck because...

The giant carried the cow **although...**

Craig sat down **before...**

TOP TIP: I SAW A WABUB can help you to remember common subordinating conjunctions.

Extend It!

Next, turn your simple sentences into complex sentences by completing your subordinate clause.

The giraffe stretched its neck because the leaves were so high up.

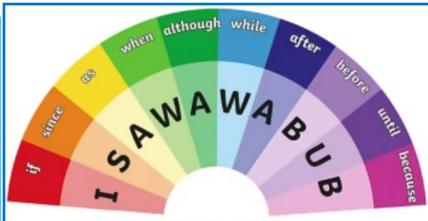
The giant carried the cow although it wriggled and squirmed.

Craig sat down before eating the delicious bowl of custard.

Relative Pronouns

used at the beginning of a relative clau

who, whom, which, whose, that, where, when Cheetahs, which are the fastest land mammals, have a decreasing population.



Subordinating Conjunctions

There are 10 subordinating conjunctions. They are used at the beginning of a subordinate clause, which is a clause that doesn't make sense on its own.