



# Clauses and Sentences



**CLAUSES:** A clause is a group of words built around a verb. All sentences contain at least one clause and are often constructed from two or more clauses.

**MAIN (INDEPENDENT) CLAUSES:** Main clauses make sense on their own. They contain a subject and a verb.



**SUBORDINATE (DEPENDENT) CLAUSES:** Subordinate clauses add extra information to the main clause. They can't stand alone.

**SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS:** Subordinate clauses are introduced by subordinating conjunctions.

- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| which   | that     |
| because | although |
| when    | where    |
| if      | while    |
| unless  | until    |

*Dinosaurs are extinct **because of climate change, disease, changing plant communities and geological events.***

**SIMPLE SENTENCES:** Simple sentences have one main clause.

- *The volcano erupted.*

**COMPOUND SENTENCES:** Compound Sentences have two or more main clauses linked by a co-ordinating conjunction, such as '**and**', '**or**', '**so**' or '**but**'. Each of the clauses in a compound sentence can stand as a statement on its own.

- *The volcano erupted **so** the town was evacuated.*

**COMPLEX SENTENCES:** Complex sentences contain a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

- *They searched for survivors, **although they knew it was too late.***

Main clause

Subordinate clause

**Declarative Sentence:** A declarative sentence makes a statement. A declarative sentence ends with a full stop.

***The house will be built on a hill.***

**Interrogative Sentence:** An interrogative sentence asks a question. An interrogative sentence ends with a question mark.

***How did you find the restaurant?***

**Exclamatory Sentence:** An exclamatory sentence shows strong feeling. An exclamatory sentence ends with an exclamation mark.

***My shoe is on fire!***

**Imperative Sentence:** An imperative sentence gives a command.

***Buy it now.***