

Essay Question Writing

Constructing a Complex Sentence

1. Copy the sentence consisting of at least two of the following grammatical features, through being introduced by:

- a relative clause clause,
- an infinitive clause,
- a participle,
- a prepositional phrase.

Subordinate Clauses

Subordinate clauses are dependent upon main clauses to make sense without any support from the main clause by a comma. (In other words, a comma never makes sense in its own and could be used to separate clauses if necessary for complex sentences. See the following example.)

The defendant pleaded guilty to the murder of the victim who was returning home from work.



There is a comma between the main clause and subordinate clause in the following sentence: J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* is a series of books that have been written by Rowling and published by Bloomsbury. In this sentence, the main clause is *Harry Potter is a series of books* and the subordinate clause is *that have been written by Rowling and published by Bloomsbury*.

Main clause: The defendant pleaded guilty to the murder of the victim.

- The clause introduced by *who* is a relative clause.

Subordinate clause: *who was returning home from work.*

- The relative clause, if we take the subordinate clause out, leaves the main clause to read *defendant is a man who was returning home from work*. It needs the main clause to make sense.

The description of the defendant's character is used to give the main clause a full effect. In the case of the subordinate clause, the subject is *the defendant* writing. This is demonstrated in the example below.

The judge with a complex sentence.

The main clause:

The judge, who was a member of the court, had a long career in the law. It was acknowledged that it was the judge's duty to ensure that the law was applied in a fair and just manner.

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