

Clauses



A **clause** is part of a sentence. A clause must contain a **verb** (a doing or being word). The **main clause** in a sentence makes sense on its own; it can usually be written as a sentence by itself. A **subordinate clause** gives further meaning to the **main clause** but does not make complete sense on its own.

Look at this sentence.

As time went by, the people grew weary of hearing the words of wisdom.

The **main clause** is "the people grew weary of hearing the words of wisdom" – it could be a sentence on its own. The **subordinate clause** is "as time went by" – it is not a complete sentence on its own.

Write down the main and subordinate clauses in the sentences below.

In a small town, there was a small house in which lived a young man, his wife, and the young man's sister.



main clause:

.....

subordinate clause:



They returned to the great tree again and again, hoping to hear the words that would ease their misery.

main clause:

subordinate clause:

.....

As the days passed, the unwatered, uncared for mango tree started drying up and its leaves began to fall.

two main clauses:

.....

subordinate clause: