

## Exercise 1: Identifying Main and Subordinate Clauses

### Constructing a Complex Sentence

1. Using the clauses provided at the bottom of the following paragraph, construct a complex sentence through strategic placement.

- A cold, rainy day.
- an overcast sky.
- a storm.
- a storm.

#### Identifying Clauses

Identifying clauses is dependent upon a reader's ability to make meaningful connections between the words found in a sentence. In the other hand, a reader must make sense of a text and could benefit from an analysis of main clauses for complex sentences. Consider the following example.

The defense counsel told the jury that the girl was cheating.



Here we can see the main and subordinate clauses in the sentence. The main clause is "The defense counsel told the jury" and the subordinate clause is "that the girl was cheating." The main clause is the independent clause and the subordinate clause is the dependent clause.

**Main clause:** The defense counsel told the jury.

- The clause contains the subject and the main verb.

**Subordinate clause:** that the girl was cheating.

- The clause begins with a subordinating conjunction. It cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. It needs the main clause to make sense.

The description of the subordinate clause is important because the main clause will still make sense if the subordinate clause is removed. The main clause is the independent clause and the subordinate clause is the dependent clause.

The topic with a complex sentence.

**The main clause:**

The sentence described something that the writer's friend did and acknowledged that it was. By using subordinate clauses, the writer made a more complex sentence with the main clause.

**The main clause:** her eyes were swimming with tears. **Subordinate clause:** as she looked at the picture of her mother. **Subordinate clause:** when she was sitting at the table. **Subordinate clause:** after she had finished her meal. **Subordinate clause:** when she was sitting at the table. **Subordinate clause:** when she was sitting at the table. **Subordinate clause:** when she was sitting at the table.