

## Essay Question Writing

### Constructing a Complex Sentence

1. Copy the sentence, underlining all the main clauses of the following grammatical features (through being underlined):

- a relative clause clause,
- a subordinate clause,
- a participle,
- a participle

#### 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. (Use the following example)

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



There are two types of subordinate clauses: relative clauses and adverbial clauses. J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* is a good example of a complex sentence and both of them are used. Here we have used the main clause 'The defendant pleaded guilty to the murder of the victim' and the subordinate clause 'who was returning home from work'.

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

- The clause 'who was returning home from work' is a subordinate clause.

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

- The relative clause 'who was returning home from work' is a subordinate clause. It is used to provide more information about the main clause.

The description of the defendant's actions is a good example of the main clause and the subordinate clause. The use of the subordinate clause helps to provide more information about the main clause.

The text is a complex sentence.

**The main clause:**

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

**The main clause:** The defendant pleaded guilty to the murder of the victim, who was returning home from work. The subordinate clause 'who was returning home from work' is a subordinate clause. It is used to provide more information about the main clause.