

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: _____