

Main Clause vs Subordinate Clause

A sentence can be made up of
several clauses.

The main clause contains the
main information in a sentence.

“I’m looking forward to my
Christmas dinner.”

Main Clause vs Subordinate Clause

A subordinate clause contains the extra information or detail you want to add:

“I’m looking forward to my Christmas dinner, even though I don’t like Brussels sprouts!”

Subordinate Clauses

What are they?

Subordinate clauses contain extra information.

This information may be important, but without it the main clause would still make sense.

Subordinate Clauses (1)

The extra information (subordinate clause) can be added:

a) at the start of a sentence:

“Even though I don’t like Brussels sprouts,
I’m looking forward to my Christmas
dinner.”

b) at the end of a sentence:

I’m looking forward to my Christmas
dinner, even though I don’t like Brussels
sprouts!”

Subordinate Clauses (2)

c) in the middle of a sentence:

“Billie, who was 9 years old, loved to play tennis.”

In each case, a comma is used to separate the subordinate clause from the rest of the sentence.

Task 1: *Make two lists: one of main clauses and another of subordinate clauses.*

Remember what we have learned:

Subordinate Clauses

What are they?

Subordinate clauses contain extra information.

This information may be important, but without it the main clause would still make sense.

Task 1: ANSWERS

Make two lists: one of main clauses and another of subordinate clauses.

MAIN CLAUSES:	SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:
<i>Johnny loved to play tennis</i>	<i>who was 9 years old</i>
<i>the dog growled at the cat</i>	<i>which was called Rover</i>
<i>the students always work hard</i>	<i>especially in English</i>
<i>I want to be a vet</i>	<i>when i grow up</i>

Task 2: Match up the main and subordinate clauses to build 4 logical sentences.

In each sentence you should think about where you put the commas and if this affects the rest of the punctuation in your sentence, e.g. capital letters and full stops.

You may write any changes you need to make to the punctuation onto the cards themselves.

For one or two of the sentences, you may need to cut or carefully fold and tear the main clause in half to create the sentence you want to.

Task 2: Match up the main and subordinate clauses to build 4 logical sentences.

Possible answers:

Johnny, who was 9 years old, loved to play tennis.

The dog, who was called Rover, growled at the cat.

The dog growled at the cat, who was called Rover.

The students always work hard, especially in English.

When I grow up, I want to be a vet.

I want to be a vet, when I grow up.