

# S.P.A.G. Lesson

(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)

Year 3

14.1.21

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Objective: Can I identify the clauses in a  
complex sentences?

SPAG

(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)

Year 3

# What is a complex sentence?

Reminder:

**Complex Sentence**

A complex sentence is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause.

Although I was frightened, I entered the lions' den.

# What is a simple sentence?

Simple sentences only have one idea.

Examples:

1. John loves watching television.
2. My brother eats worms.
3. Norman likes hot chocolate.



# What is a complex sentence?

Complex sentences have a main clause and a subordinate clause. The clauses are joined together with a subordinating conjunction.

Examples:

1. John loves watching television **while** eating popcorn.
2. My brother eats worms **when** he crawls on the grass.
3. Norman likes drinking hot chocolate **before** bedtime.



# Complex sentences



Okay, so a sentence with a main clause and a subordinate clause is known as a...

## Complex sentence

e.g. John walked by the canal which was full of ducks.

↑  
**main clause**

**The main clause  
makes sense on its  
own.**

↑  
**subordinate clause**

**The subordinate  
clause does not make  
sense on its own.**



# Task 1: Identifying different clauses



## Write out these sentences.

- Which bit is the main clause? – underline it in blue.
- Which bit is the subordinate clause? – underline it in red.
- Which word is the subordinate conjunction? – underline it in green.

1. Jack played football until he was worn out.
2. Bill went to bed after eating his tea.
3. Tony sang a song while walking to school.
4. Sally ran to school because she was late.
5. Sam likes to use an umbrella when it rains.
6. Daniel washed his hands before eating his dinner.



The clauses in **Complex Sentences** are joined by subordinating conjunctions like these:

## SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

after  
although  
as  
as if  
as long as  
as much as  
as soon as  
as though

because  
before  
even if  
even though  
how  
if  
in as much as  
in order that

lest  
now that  
provided  
since  
so that  
than  
that  
though

till  
unless  
until  
when  
whenever  
where  
wherever  
while

# Task 2: Write a complex sentence



Look at the picture of Megan. Write a complex sentence with a subordinate clause.

- name: Megan
- owns: a pet tarantula called Mogg
- wears: hooded tops, patterned tights and boots
- hair colour: red
- ambition: to become a writer.



## SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

after  
although  
as  
as if  
as long as  
as much as  
as soon as  
as though

because  
before  
even if  
even though  
how  
if  
in as much as  
in order that

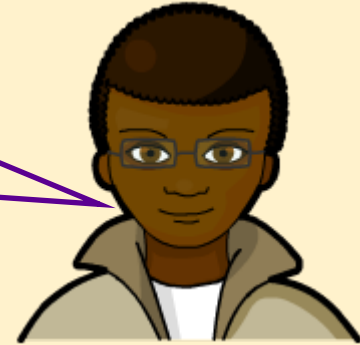
lest  
now that  
provided  
since  
so that  
than  
that  
though

till  
unless  
until  
when  
whenever  
where  
wherever  
while



## Using simple and complex sentences

Let's recap when to use simple and complex sentences...



**Simple** sentences are useful to be **brief**:

- in emergency instructions
- to teach young children
- for someone who can't read much English.

**Complex** sentences are useful to be **descriptive**:

- to explain something in detail
- to be precise about what you are describing
- to keep your reader interested.

