

Clauses

TN Language Arts Checks for Understanding

0601.1.1 0601.1.7 0601.1.10 0601.1.11
0701.1.1 0701.1.10 0701.1.11
0801.1.1 0801.1.7 0801.1.8 0801.1.9

A **clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate. There are two types of clauses.

(a) A **main clause** or independent clause makes sense standing alone.

Examples: *I enjoy summer water sports.*

The cat chased the mouse for hours.

(b) A **subordinate clause** or dependent clause does not make sense on its own. Alone, subordinate clauses are sentence fragments. These clauses must be combined with independent clauses in order to form sentences.

Examples: I saw the new car *when I came home.*

I went to the store *so I could try the new recipe.*

Subordinate clauses serve as *adjectives, adverbs, or nouns.*

Examples: The man *who made the speech* is my uncle. (adjective)

Our bus stops *when the students need a ride to school.* (adverb)

He believes *that people are inherently good.* (noun)

Sentences are categorized by the kind and number of clauses they contain.

(a) **Simple sentences** consist of one independent clause.

Example: *Dogs play.*

(b) **Compound sentences** contain two or more independent clauses joined by a conjunction or a semicolon.

Example: *I went to the party, and Kate studied for the test.*

(c) **Complex sentences** contain one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

Example: He was studying for hours *while she was napping by the pool.*

(d) **Compound-complex sentences** contain two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clauses.

Example: *While they were investigating the crime,* the detectives uncovered evidence for another case, and they realized the two were connected.

Give students ample practice in finding the main clause in a sentence by having them look through a familiar story or article, circling the main clauses.

Remind them that a main clause can stand alone.

Clause match-up

Have children match main clauses to subordinate clauses.

They were considered heroes

because she was sick.

Katy did not go to the game

where the museum was.

The driver didn't know

who saved the infant.

Clause call-out

Write a main clause on the chalkboard and challenge children to call out appropriate subordinate clauses.

We went to the arena

after we had eaten pizza.

where the games are played.

because we wanted to practice.

Clause search

Write some clauses on the chalkboard. Have children search for and identify the type of clause and find its subject and verb.

He saw the convict who stole the car.

Add the verb

Have children orally add missing verbs to clauses.

We cheered for the player who ten goals.

We cheered for the player who scored ten goals.

The officer caught the thief who the money.

The officer caught the thief who stole the money.

Draw a line to match each main clause to its subordinate clause.

Main clause

- a. Where is the magazine
- b. Here is the thief
- c. I asked the officer
- d. The corn crop will be damaged
- e. My favorite flower is the one
- f. Henry did not come with us
- g. I know the lady

Subordinate clause

- where the post office was.
- if we get strong winds.
- because his car is not working.
- that has orange blossoms.
- that I bought last week?
- whose car was stolen.
- that was arrested for the crime.

Underline the main clause and circle the subordinate clause in each sentence.
Hint: The main clause might be split in two parts with the subordinate clause between the parts.

- a. The students who arrived early for school went to the library.

- b. The superintendent who called the meeting met with the teachers.
- c. She treasured the necklace that her uncle had given her.
- d. The orchard where the apple trees are planted belongs to my family.
- e. The barn that shelters the horses was saved from storm damage.
- f. The cabinet that is houses the valuable silverware is located in the dining room.
- g. The menu that is for the wedding guests is on the refrigerator.
- h. My uncle works at a shop where car parts are made.

The man *who presented the award* is my uncle. (adjective)

My class begins working *when the bell rings*. (adverb)

I believe *that people are inherently good*. (noun)

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|---|---|
| a. The man found two dogs | which began on the first day of summer. |
| b. Our vacation ...was thrilling. | that like to play fetch. |
| c. We enjoyed the vegetables | who was from Germany. |
| d. He spoke to the exchange student | that loves romaine lettuce. |
| e. I have a new guinea pig | which is hundreds of years old |
| f. The Indian arrowhead. . . was priceless. | which were grown in our garden. |

Complete each sentence by completing each adjective subordinate clause.

- a. This is the book that..... .
- b. The new poster which....was huge.
- c. The photo that..... was taken with my phone.
- d. The restaurant that.... has several kinds of ice cream.
- e. The local hero who..... was photographed for the newspaper.
- f. The book told of the life of a man that..... .

Complete each sentence by adding an adjective subordinate clause.

- a. Henry saw a priceless antique.
- b. The music was very loud.
- c. The author of the book was a recluse.
- d. She washed the clothes repeatedly.