



Finite verbs
make a tense.

Clauses are small groups of words.

They are like phrases but clauses **make sense on their own** because they have a **finite verb**.

The man was cold.

This is a **main clause**.

We can add another **clause** to make the sentence more interesting.

The man was cold | so he put on a coat.

This is the **main clause**. This is a **subordinate clause**.

Subordinate (less important) clauses usually begin with a conjunction such as:

so when although because after before if

Subordinate means less important.



Focus

What is the **main clause** in each sentence?

- 1 We were ready to go when it started to rain.
- 2 The procession came down the main street after it came out of the park.
- 3 We didn't win the match although we played very well.
- 4 I don't use a calculator when I do my sums.
- 5 I have to tidy up if I make a mess.
- 6 The volcano erupted before lava poured down its sides.



Practice

- A** Copy the sentences. Underline the **main clause** in each sentence.
- 1 The famous violinist was nervous but she played very well.
 - 2 I am curious to know where you are going and how you will get there.
 - 3 You will get a parking ticket if you park on a double yellow line.
 - 4 The builder finished his work and put away his tools.
- B** Copy the sentences. Underline the **subordinate clause** in each sentence.
- 1 I am excited because it is my birthday.
 - 2 The birds will come into the garden if you feed them.
 - 3 I am worried about the spelling test although I think I know them all.
 - 4 The match was good even though my team didn't win.



Extension

- A** Add a **subordinate clause** to each of these main clauses to finish the sentences.
- 1 The apple was rotten _____.
 - 2 I could see the town in the distance _____.
 - 3 My brother and I quarreled _____.
- B** Add a **main clause** to each of these subordinate clauses to finish the sentences.
- 1 _____ and we enjoyed ourselves.
 - 2 _____ when the race started.
 - 3 _____ although I am a good swimmer.