

Identifying Main Clauses and Subordinate Clauses

Tick one box in each row to show whether the underlined clause is the main clause or the subordinate clause.

Sentence	Main Clause	Subordinate Clause	Sentence	Main Clause	Subordinate Clause
My sister, <u>who is older than me</u> , is a teacher.			The clouds, <u>which were above them</u> , were very dark and grey.		
Although the daffodils have died, <u>they will grow again next Spring</u> .			<u>Mark</u> , who was the eldest of the group, <u>opened the door first</u> .		
The two thieves, <u>who ran down the road</u> , were being chased by a police officer.			Mum jumped up in shock <u>when she heard her baby cry</u> .		
<u>The old lady</u> , who lived in a little cottage, <u>slowly opened the front door</u> .			I knew the plane was about to land <u>because I could see the cows in the fields</u> .		
The singer smiled at the audience <u>as she walked onto the stage</u> .			<u>Mrs Williams</u> , who teaches Year 3, <u>hates it when her pupils shout out</u> .		
The cave was dark and damp <u>which made me shiver with fright</u> .			The snow, <u>as fluffy as cotton wool</u> , drifted gracefully to the ground.		
Dad sat on the bench <u>while the children played in the park</u> .			<u>When the football hit his leg</u> , the young boy burst into tears.		
<u>Luke</u> , who is three years older than me, <u>can already drive</u> .			<u>The car's engine</u> , which was new, <u>had broken</u> .		

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Identifying Main Clauses and Subordinate Clauses – Worksheet 1 – Tricky

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My sister, <u>who is older than me</u> , is a teacher.		✓	The clouds, <u>which were above them</u> , were very dark and grey.		✓
Although the daffodils have died, <u>they will grow again next Spring</u> .	✓		Mark, who was the eldest of the group, <u>opened the door first</u> .	✓	
The two thieves, <u>who ran down the road</u> , were being chased by a police officer.		✓	Mum jumped up in shock <u>when she heard her baby cry</u> .		✓
<u>The old lady, who lived in a little cottage</u> , slowly opened the front door.	✓		I knew the plane was about to land <u>because I could see the cows in the fields</u> .		✓
The singer smiled at the audience <u>as she walked onto the stage</u> .		✓	Mrs Williams, who teaches Year 3, <u>hates it when her pupils shout out</u> .	✓	
The cave was dark and damp <u>which made me shiver with fright</u> .		✓	The snow, <u>as fluffy as cotton wool</u> , drifted gracefully to the ground.		✓
Dad sat on the bench <u>while the children played in the park</u> .		✓	<u>When the football hit his leg</u> , the young boy burst into tears.		✓
<u>Luke, who is three years older than me</u> , can already drive.	✓		<u>The car's engine</u> , which was new, had broken.	✓	

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Sentence	Main Clause	Subordinate Clause	Sentence	Main Clause	Subordinate Clause
I walked to school because my mum's car had broken down.			The moon, which was full and bright, shone onto the lake.		
Ali put his head in his hands as he struggled with his homework.			Although it was cold, the children played happily in the park.		
He played his dad at chess although he knew that he would not win.			The boy sneezes whenever his mum buys flowers from the florist.		
I get headaches whenever I eat cheese.			Although I wasn't hungry, I ate my dinner.		
Although the door was heavy, the lady opened it quickly.			Ali, who has brown hair, wants to be an author when he grows up.		
Ayesha ate her toast while she read the newspaper.			While the teachers were eating their lunch, the children climbed a large tree.		
When the phone rang, Katie switched off her laptop and got up to answer it.			The waitress, with her hair tied in a pretty bow, greeted the customers with a smile.		
When the sun set, the birds stopped singing.			The plumber, who they had telephoned, arrived.		

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I walked to school <u>because my mum's car had broken down.</u>	✓		The moon, <u>which was full and bright,</u> shone onto the lake.		✓
Ali put his head in his hands <u>as he struggled with his homework.</u>	✓		<u>Although it was cold,</u> the children played happily in the park.		✓
He played his dad at chess <u>although he knew that he would not win.</u>		✓	<u>The boy sneezes</u> whenever his mum buys flowers from the florist.	✓	
I get headaches <u>whenever I eat cheese.</u>		✓	<u>Although I wasn't hungry,</u> I ate my dinner.		✓
<u>Although the door was heavy,</u> the lady opened it quickly.	✓		Ali, <u>who has brown hair,</u> wants to be an author when he grows up.		✓
<u>Ayesha ate her toast</u> while she read the newspaper.	✓		While the teachers were eating their lunch, <u>the children climbed a large tree.</u>	✓	
<u>When the phone rang,</u> Katie switched off her laptop and got up to answer it.		✓	The waitress, <u>with her hair tied in a pretty bow,</u> greeted the customers with a smile.		✓
<u>When the sun set,</u> the birds stopped singing.		✓	<u>The plumber,</u> who they had telephoned, <u>arrived.</u>	✓	

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Identifying Main Clauses and Subordinate Clauses – Worksheet 2 – Tricky **ANSWERS**

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