

MAIN CLAUSES

A **simple sentence** = one main clause.

A **main clause** always makes sense on its own, contains a verb and one idea or event.

Examples of main clauses:

The cat purred all day.

The knight killed the dragon.

He ran down the road.

COMPOUND SENTENCES

Both main clauses always have equal importance.

When main clauses are linked by **coordinating conjunctions**, they create **compound sentences**.

Examples:

The cat purred all day, **but** the dog growled.

The dragon was dead **so** his work was done.

The **coordinating conjunctions** are

for and nor

but or yet so

(FAN BOYS)

She did not make a comment, **nor** did she take sides.

He was strict, **but** completely fair.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSES

COMPLEX SENTENCES

A **subordinate clause** is not as important as the main clause and does not make sense on its own.

Examples:

As the clock struck midnight, a howl rang out.

When Dad reached the house, he stopped and listened.

He borrowed his mum's phone **because** he could not find his own.

The old pound coin, **since** the start of October, cannot be used.

A **complex sentence** has one main clause - plus at least one subordinate clause which relies on the main clause to make sense.

The main and subordinating clauses are joined by a **subordinating conjunction**.

subordinating conjunctions include:

after	so	when
since	till	before
through	as	whereas
although	until	whether
because	if	as soon as
unless	whilst	so that

Notice that subordinate clauses can be at the beginning, in the middle (**embedded clauses**) or at the end of a sentence.