Sentence Types – Main and Subordinate Clauses
Learning Purposes

• To develop our knowledge of main and subordinate clauses
• To apply a range of sentence types and literacy techniques to your own writing

Previous learning:
• What is an appositive? Write an example using the noun ‘man’.
• What is a participle phrase? What tense can they be written in?
• What is a parallel construction? Write down an example.

Future lessons:
• To develop the ability to analyse texts, using grammatical knowledge to aid analytical writing.
• To use a range of grammatical constructions when writing creatively.
What are the four different **types of sentences** that we have looked at in previous lessons? Categorise the sentences below to help write your definitions.

1. For the second time that night her blood froze to ice and she wanted to scream, but no sound came out.  **Compound/complex**
2. Sophie couldn’t sleep.  **Simple**
3. When she reached the curtains, Sophie hesitated.  **Complex**
4. The Big Friendly Giant picked Sophie off the table and he carried her to the cave entrance.  **Compound**
Sentence Type Definitions – Make sure you have these down!

• Simple – **one main clause**
• Compound – **two main clauses** joined by a *coordinating conjunction* or a *semi-colon*
• Complex – **a main clause** and *a subordinate clause* joined by a *subordinating conjunction*
• Compound/Complex - at least **two main clauses** and *one or more subordinate clauses*. Include both a *coordinating* and *subordinating conjunction*.

You may want to draw a diagram or colour coordinate your definitions so that they’re easier to visualise 😊
Clauses recap

A **clause** is group of words that contain a **subject** and a **verb**.

**Subject** – the main noun or pronoun; usually the person or thing completing an action.

**Verb** – a word that describes an action or state of being.
What is a main clause?

A main clause is used to present **one main idea or action**. A main clause can be a sentence on its own – a simple sentence.

1. **Sophie** nodded.
2. **The BFG smiled** a big wide smile of absolute pleasure.

Remember: every sentence **must** have a main clause.
Write out the following sentences and identify the subject and verbs.

1. Sophie waited.
2. Sophie started to read the labels.
3. “It is a little bit like mixing a cake,” the BFG said.
4. The BFG glided forward among the trees.
5. He unscrewed the lid.
6. A sly little smile crossed the BFG’s face.
7. He began to move slowly.
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7. He **began to move** slowly.
A subordinate clause **cannot** stand alone as a sentence. A subordinate clause joins with a **main clause or phrase** to make a complete sentence. It must also contain a **subject** and a **verb**.

*While looking through the window, Sophie saw the BFG.*
Subordinate Clauses

- Subordinate clauses can go at the beginning, middle or ends of sentences.
- They are used to give extra information that is linked to the main clause.

What kind of sentence is made when you put a main clause and a subordinate clause together?
Identify the subordinate clauses...

1. Sophie, by squirming around inside the blanket, managed to push her head out through a little gap just below the giant’s hand.
2. Looking at it carefully, she decided it must be some kind of person.
3. When she reached the curtains, Sophie hesitated.
4. The BFG, with Sophie now sitting on the palm of his hand, stood near by watching the operation.
5. When the BFG came near the sleeping giants, he slowed his pace.
6. Sophie, peeping out from her pocket, examined the nine sleeping giants.
7. The butler, an opposing personage named Mr Tibbs, was in supreme command of all the Palace servants.
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Choose a subject and a verb from below to write 5 sentences with a main and a subordinate clause.

Label each clause in your sentence.

Girl
Giant
Window
Sophie
He
Baked
Ran
Open
Escape
Eating

Have a go!
Examples

• The girl ran through the alley because her life depended on it.
• When the child saw what the giant was eating, her eyes perked up with curiosity.
• Though the window was covered from view, Sophie managed to open the giant’s door clearly.
• There was nothing in Mark’s bowl even though he was told there would be something to eat.
We are going to read the extract that describes Frobscottle, which is a drink enjoyed by giants.

Find examples of the following in the extract:
- Alliteration
- Subordinate clause
- Interrogative
- Imperative
- Exclamative
- Compound sentence
- Simple sentence
'Have some yourself!' cried the BFG, tipping the neck of the enormous bottle towards her.

'Don't you have a cup?' Sophie said.

'No cups. Only bottle.'

Sophie opened her mouth, and very gently the BFG tipped the bottle forward and poured some of the fabulous frobscottle down her throat.

And oh gosh, how delicious it was! It was sweet and refreshing. It tasted of vanilla and cream, with just the faintest trace of raspberries on the edge of the flavour. And the bubbles were wonderful. Sophie could actually feel them bouncing and bursting all around her tummy. It was an amazing sensation. It felt as though hundreds of tiny people were dancing a jig inside her and tickling her with their toes. It was lovely.

Sophie could feel the bubbles travelling lower and lower down her tummy, and then suddenly, inevitably ... the explosion came. The trumpets sounded and she too made the walls of the cavern ring with the sound of music and thunder.

'Bravo!' shouted the BFG, waving the bottle. 'You is very good for a beginner! Let's have some more!'
Create your own exciting drink!

Using Frobscottle as inspiration, you are going to create your own exciting drink. You can be as creative as you like – nothing needs to be possible!

You description must include:
• 3 simple sentences
• 3 complex sentences
• 2 compound sentences
• 10 adjectives
• 5 verbs
• 3 adverbs
• 2 examples of alliteration
• 1 appositive phrase
• 1 participle phrase
• 1 absolute phrase
• An example of parallel construction

Challenge: Can you create some adjectives of your own?

- hopscotchy
- gloriumptious
- jumbly
- delumptious
- scotty