

Main and subordinate clauses

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SPaG: Sentences and clauses · 12 questions

Answers are on the last page.

1 Underline the subordinate clause.

She read until the candle burned out.

2 Which type of sentence is this? Tick one.

The dog barked.

☐ compound-complex☐ compound☐ complex☐ simple

3 Which sentence uses a semi-colon to join two main clauses in a compound sentence? Tick one.

☐ When she was tired; she kept going.☐ She was tired, she kept going.☐ She was tired; although she kept going.☐ She was tired; she kept going.

4 Which type of sentence is this? Tick one.

Although it was raining, we went to the park.

☐ minor☐ simple☐ compound☐ complex

5 Which coordinating conjunction makes this a compound sentence? Tick one.

She tried hard, ___ she didn't succeed.

☐ but☐ because☐ although☐ unless

6 Which sentence is a compound sentence? Tick one.

☐ She sang, and he played guitar.☐ She sang.☐ Although she was shy, she sang.☐ She sang because she was happy.

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7 Circle the word that introduces the subordinate clause.

We waited until the storm passed.

8 Which of these is a main clause? Tick one.

☐ Unless the rain fell.☐ Before the rain fell.☐ The rain fell.☐ When the rain fell.

9 Which sentence contains a subordinate clause? Tick one.

☐ I stayed in and watched TV.☐ I stayed in all day.☐ I stayed in because it was raining.☐ I stayed in, so did my sister.

10 Which of these is NOT a complete main clause? Tick one.

☐ He smiled and waved.☐ She opened the door.☐ The dog barked.☐ Whenever the phone rang.

11 What makes this sentence complex? Tick one.

She hid the letter before he returned.

☐ It contains a relative clause beginning with who.☐ It contains only one clause with a single verb.☐ It contains a subordinate clause starting with before.☐ It contains two main clauses joined by a conjunction.

12 Which sentence is a complex sentence? Tick one.

☐ She left, and he stayed.☐ She left; he stayed.☐ She left when the bell rang.☐ She left.

Main and subordinate clauses: answers

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Mark scheme

- 1 until the candle burned out
- 2 simple
- 3 She was tired; she kept going.
- 4 complex
- 5 but
- 6 She sang, and he played guitar.
- 7 until
- 8 The rain fell.
- 9 I stayed in because it was raining.
- 10 Whenever the phone rang.
- 11 It contains a subordinate clause starting with before.
- 12 She left when the bell rang.