Grammar – Main Clauses

Clauses are small group of words. They are similar to a phrase, but a clause always contains a proper verb.

The man was cold, so he wore his coat.

This sentence has two **verbs** and two **clauses**.
Clause 1 = The man was cold   verb = was
Clause 2 = so he wore his coat   verb = wore

In sentences with two clauses, one of the clauses is usually more important and is called the **main clause**.
The main clause in this sentence is "The man was cold". The main clause can usually be a sentence by itself.

The main clause does not always have to come first.

After we had seen the elephants, we trudged bac to our camp.

Main clause = we trudged bac to our camp
Second clause = After we had seen the elephants

Section 1

Underline the **main clause** in each sentence.

1. We were ready to go when the it started to rain.

2. The procession came down the main street and went into the park.

3. Although we played very well, we didn't win the match.

4. When I do my sums, I don't use a calculator.

5. If I make a mess in my room, I have to tidy up.

6. The volcano erupted and lava poured down its sides.

> Hint: the clause that is not the main clause usually begins with a conjunction, such as **and, but, so, although, when, because, after** or **before.**

Section 2

Separate the two clauses in each sentence and underline the **main clause**.

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. If you park on a double yellow line, you will get a parking ticket.

4. The builder finished his work and put away his tools.

Section 3

Add a **second clause** to each of these **main clauses.** You may be able to make more than one clause by using different conjunctions.

1. The apple was rotten _____.

2. I could see a town in the distance _____.

3. My brother and I quarrelled _____.

4. These feathers are similar _____.

5. The radiator was leaking _____.

Section 4

Add a **main clause** to each of these **second clauses.**

1. _____ and we enjoyed ourselves.

2. _____ when the race started.

3. Although I am a good swimmer, _____.

4. _____ because he was very generous.

5. Before the bridge was built, _____.

Hint: Your second clause can begin with a conjunction.