

Clause Clarity Sort

Sort complete thoughts from dependent thoughts.

9.LU.1.D "Use appositives and main and subordinate clauses to convey and clarify a message when speaking and writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

MAIN CLAUSE

A main clause has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.

Musicians rehearsed indoors.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

A subordinate clause has a subject and a verb, but it does not express a complete thought. It needs a main clause to complete its meaning.

while rain tapped the windows

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each item, circle MAIN or DEPENDENT, then choose two items and explain what makes each clause main or dependent.

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The hikers reached the shelter before sunset. | ☐ MAIN | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 2. Although the trail was steep. | ☐ MAIN | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 3. when the fog lifted | ☐ MAIN | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 4. The guide checked the map. | ☐ MAIN | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 5. Our group packed extra water. | ☐ MAIN | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 6. A red-tailed hawk circled overhead. | ☐ MAIN | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 7. because the bridge was closed | ☐ MAIN | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 8. We chose a safer route. | ☐ MAIN | ☐ DEPENDENT |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new main clause and one new subordinate clause.

MAIN _____

DEPENDENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with a main clause and a subordinate clause. Add an appositive that gives extra information about a noun, then label the main clause and subordinate clause.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers reached the shelter before sunset.	MAIN	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
2	Although the trail was steep.	DEPENDENT	Although makes the clause dependent on a main clause.
3	when the fog lifted	DEPENDENT	When makes the clause dependent on a main clause.
4	The guide checked the map.	MAIN	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
5	Our group packed extra water.	MAIN	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
6	A red-tailed hawk circled overhead.	MAIN	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
7	because the bridge was closed	DEPENDENT	Because makes the clause dependent on a main clause.
8	We chose a safer route.	MAIN	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **MAIN:** The librarian organized the display.
- **DEPENDENT:** If the temperature drops

Challenge: After the bell rang, Maya, the team captain, started the meeting. Main clause: Maya, the team captain, started the meeting. Subordinate clause: After the bell rang.

Accept proof explanations that identify whether the clause expresses a complete thought and whether a subordinating word makes it dependent. In the challenge, the appositive should rename or identify a noun and be set off with commas when it is nonessential.