

Topic 2: Main and Subordinate Clauses (Introduction)

Chapter 1: Grammar Review and Clauses · Topic 2

Key Concept

A main (independent) clause has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought, like 'She went to school.'

A subordinate (dependent) clause also has a subject and verb but cannot stand alone, like 'because it was raining.'

Combining a main clause and subordinate clause creates a complex sentence, like 'She stayed home because it was raining.'

Understanding clauses helps us write more varied and sophisticated sentences, improving our overall writing style.

Quick Revision Notes

- Main clause: complete thought, stands alone.
- Example: 'She went to school.'
- Subordinate clause: cannot stand alone.
- Example: 'because it was raining.'
- Combining both creates a complex sentence.
- Example: 'She stayed home because it was raining.'
- Clauses build varied sentences.
- This improves overall writing style.

Practice Questions

- 1 Identify the main clause in a complex sentence.
- 2 Identify the subordinate clause in a complex sentence.
- 3 Combine a main and subordinate clause into one sentence.
- 4 Write a sentence with 'although' as a subordinate clause starter.
- 5 Write a sentence with 'because' as a subordinate clause starter.
- 6 Discuss why complex sentences improve writing.