

Sentence Structure

SIMPLE SENTENCE

One clause = a subject & 1 verb (or verb chain) e.g.

The mother worried.

In the middle of the night the mother worried needlessly about her son.

COMPOUND SENTENCE

2 or more clauses linked with co-ordinating conjunctions (a simple conjunction like 'and' or 'but'). Each clause has equal weight, none is subordinate to another. e.g.

Angela worried.

Tim slept.

Angela turned the light on.

Angela worried and she turned the light on but Tim slept.

COMPLEX SENTENCES

1 main clause and 1 or more subordinate clause. Subordinate clauses do not make sense on their own. There are 3 types of subordinate clause: adverbials, relative and non-finite. Adverbial and relative subordinate clauses are created by using subordinating conjunctions.*

e.g.

*Angela worried **because her son was unhappy**.* (adverbial)

*Tim, **who was frustrated by his wife's worrying**, slept.* (relative)

At Fox Primary School we teach these in the following way...

1. Adverbials

“When, Before, After, As clauses”

Subordinate clauses beginning with conjunctions are adverbials and this means that they are mobile.

e.g.

***When her son was unhappy**, Angela worried.*

*Angela was unhappy, **when her son worried**.*

NB – When the adverbial clause is at the end of the sentence it often does NOT need a comma to separate it.

Relative clauses

“Extra Information, Burger Sentences”

These act like adjectives and are embedded into the sentence. They always begin with a pronoun; which, that, who, whom.

e.g.

*The work, **which the boy found difficult**, was making him unhappy.*

*The teacher, **whom the boy liked**, was very understanding.*

*The boy, **that confided in his mother**, made it worse.*

*Tim, **who was frustrated by his wife's worrying**, slept.*

Non-finite clause

“-ing clauses”

The subordinate clause is made up of a non-finite (an incomplete) verb and is separated from the main clause using a comma.

e.g.

***Fidgeting unconsciously**, Angela worried.*

***Groaning to himself**, Tim slept.*

*Subordinating conjunctions

however, yet, except, but, / meanwhile, when, while, during, then, as / because, due to, so, therefore, in order to, so that, since, / which, that, who, whom / also, moreover, furthermore, / despite, although, even though

however	yet	except	but			
meanwhile	when	while	during	then	as	
because	due to	so	therefore	in order to	so that	since
which	that	who	whom			
also	moreover	furthermore				
despite	although	even although				