

Literacy Moment!



Week 1: Clauses

1. What is a 'clause'? Discuss this with the people around you. **You have only 30 seconds!**
2. Does this definition help? Do you want to change your original description?

Clause (noun): a unit of grammatical organization next below the sentence in rank and in traditional grammar said to consist of a subject and predicate.

Key word: **Predicate** – The part of the sentence that tells us what the subject does.

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So, a clause is a **group of words that contains a verb** (and often, other components too).

A clause may be part of a longer sentence, or be a sentence on its own. For example:

I ate an entire pizza!

Does this make sense on its own?

Yes, it does! We don't need any more information to understand this sentence.



Week 1: Clauses

Where is the **verb** in this sentence?

Where is the **noun**?

I ate an entire pizza!

VERB

NOUN

KEY WORDS:

VERB: An action, or 'doing' word.

NOUN: A name of an object.



Week 1: Clauses

However, sentences can be made up of **more than one clause!**

I felt sick because I ate an entire pizza!

Twenty seconds:

Where are the two clauses in this sentence?



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However, sentences can be made up of **more than one clause!**

I felt sick because I ate an entire pizza!

MAIN CLAUSE

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

So you'll notice the **main clause** makes sense on its own.

The **subordinate clause** does not!

How do you make the subordinate clause make sense?

Week 1: Clauses

You can remove the connective!

I felt sick. I ate an entire pizza!

These are now **two separate sentences**.

Next week, we will build on this and look at **sentence structure!**

Week 1: Clauses

Try to use the correct terminology when answering this!

Spot the clauses in these sentences:

1. I went to the shop and I bought some cheese.
2. Mark ran fast but Neal won the race.
3. He did that yesterday.
4. Although he had pizza, Dave preferred steak.



Key Words from Today's Session...

Grammar: The whole system and structure of language

Clause: A part of a sentence containing a verb and other components.

Predicate: The part of the sentence that tells us what the subject does.

Verb: An action, or 'doing' word. E.g. He *ran*, she *looks*.

Noun: A name of an object.

Subordinate: The clause which **does not make sense on its own**.

Connective: A word used to join **two main clauses together**.