

Clauses

- Main clauses are sentences which make sense on their own. They must contain a subject and a verb.
- Subordinate clauses are parts of a sentence which do not make sense without a main clause. They add information to main clauses.

Main or subordinate clauses?

- It was already over
- After the game had finished
- Since the evening it happened
- The cat was hungry again
- They walked quickly
- Rather than trying hard
- She screamed

Identify the main clause, subordinate clause and subject in each of the following sentences:

- Although he was tired, Jeremy went for a run.
- The dog had got used to the rain since moving to Wales.
- Caroline, after drinking her tea, went to bed.

Semi-colons

- Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses within one sentence.
- The main clauses must be related to each other to be included in the same sentence.
- For example: I took my umbrella; it looked like it was going to rain.

Lists

- Semi-colons can also be used to separate items in lists, when these items could stand alone as sentences.
- For example: I did the washing up; my sister dried up; my brother put things away and my mum sat down.

As they are read out, stand up when you think there should be a semi-colon in the following sentences:

- Jack had just turned four he would start school in September.
- The washing machine is broken the tumble dryer still works.
- It was getting dark outside they turned on the lights.
- You go to the post office I'll go to the butcher's and he can go to the newsagent.
- There was no money left in her bank account Jane would have to get a job.