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Year 3 Clauses Unit

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Clauses

A clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb.

Independent clause

A complete thought that can stand alone as a sentence.



The class cheered loudly.

Dependent clause

An incomplete thought that needs an independent clause.



because the bell rang

Dependent clauses can come at the start, middle or end of a sentence.

Start:

Because it was raining, we stayed inside.



Middle:

My brother, who loves football, scored a goal.



End:

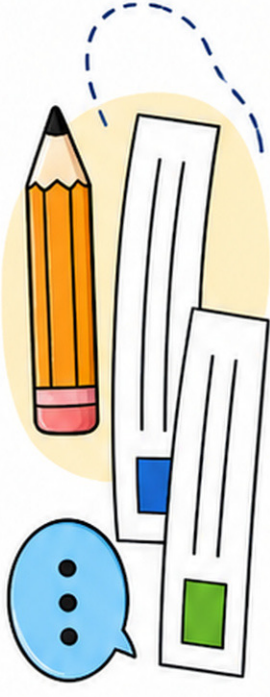
We stayed inside because it was raining.





Clause Pair-Up Cards

Cut out the cards. Match one independent clause with **one** dependent clause to make a complete sentence.



I packed my raincoat



The class cheered



Mia closed the gate



We kept reading



Sam smiled



The plants grew taller



because dark clouds
were gathering



when the rocket
launched



before the puppy
ran out



although the bell
had rung



as his team crossed
the line



after the rain soaked
the soil



Clause Path Game

A clause has a subject and a verb.

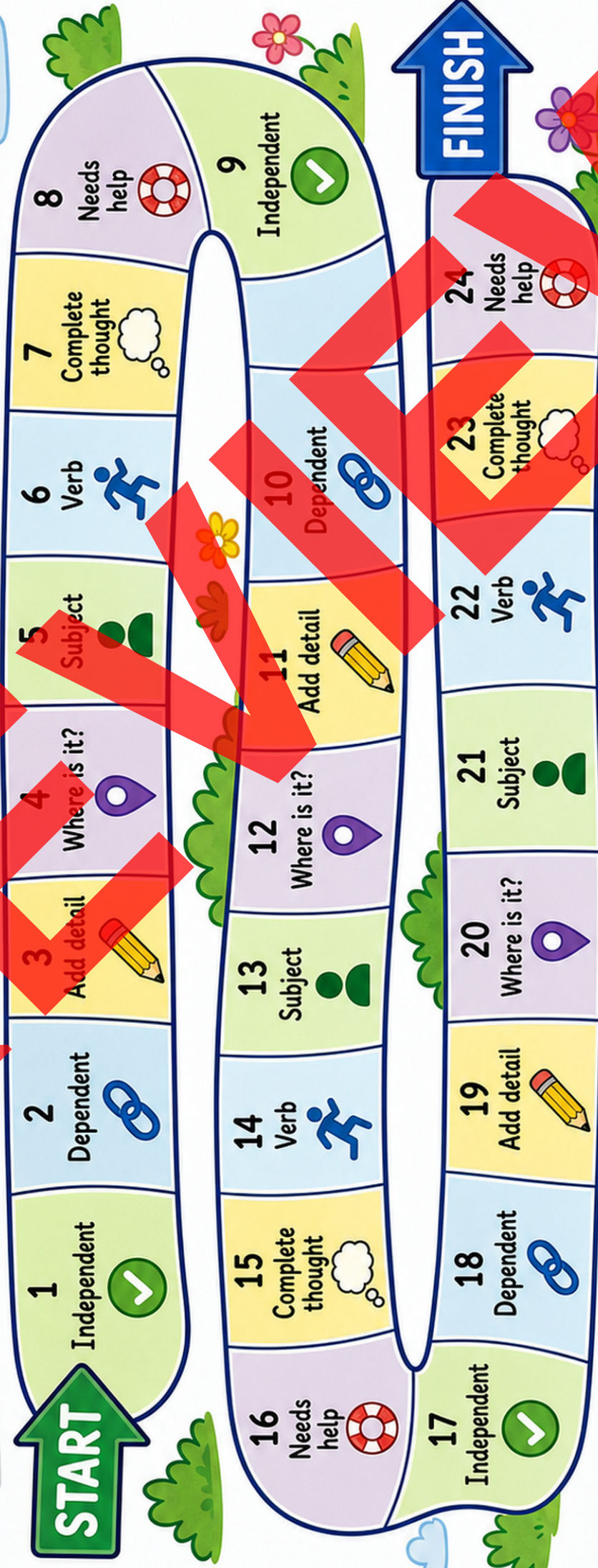
Join words.
Make meaning!



Roll. Move. Read the space. Answer the clause challenge.



START



FINISH

Independent:
say a complete sentence.



Dependent:
add a main clause.



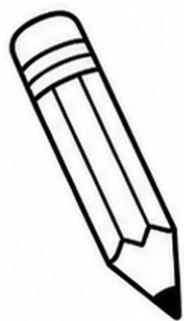
Add detail:
include when, where, why or how.

Where is it?:
name start, middle or end.



Name: _____

Clause Basics: Subject and Verb



A clause has a subject and a verb.
An independent clause can stand alone
as a complete sentence.



A. Circle the subject and underline the verb.

1. The students opened their books.
2. Ava kicked the soccer ball.
3. My little brother laughed loudly.
4. The teacher rang the bell.
5. Rain splashed on the window.

B. Tick the best box.

Clause	Independent	Dependent
6. because the bus was late	☐	☐
7. The lights flickered.	☐	☐
8. when the music stopped	☐	☐
9. We packed our lunch.	☐	☐



Clause Basics: Subject and Verb



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8. when the music stopped	☐	☒
9. We packed our lunch.	☒	☐





Name: _____

Dependent Clause Detectives

A dependent clause gives extra information
but cannot stand alone as a
complete sentence.



Underline the dependent clause. Then tick where it sits in the sentence.

1. Because the playground was wet, we stayed under the shelter.

Dependent clause: _____ Start ☐ Middle ☐ End ☐

2. The kite flew higher when the wind became stronger.

Dependent clause: _____ Start ☐ Middle ☐ End ☐

3. My cousin, who lives in Darwin, sent me a postcard.

Dependent clause: _____ Start ☐ Middle ☐ End ☐

4. Although the puzzle was tricky, Priya kept trying.

Dependent clause: _____ Start ☐ Middle ☐ End ☐

5. We ate lunch after the bell rang.

Dependent clause: _____ Start ☐ Middle ☐ End ☐

6. The painting, which was still drying, stayed on the table.

Dependent clause: _____ Start ☐ Middle ☐ End ☐



Name: **ANSWERS**

Dependent Clause Detectives

A dependent clause gives extra information but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.



Underline the dependent clause. Then tick where it sits in the sentence.

1. Because the playground was wet, we stayed under the shelter.

Dependent clause: Because the playground was wet

Start

☒

Middle

☐

End

☐

2. The kite flew higher when the wind became stronger.

Dependent clause: when the wind became stronger

Start

☐

Middle

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End

☒

3. My cousin, who lives in Darwin, sent me a postcard.

Dependent clause: who lives in Darwin

Start

☐

Middle

☒

End

☐

4. Although the puzzle was tricky, Priya kept trying.

Dependent clause: Although the puzzle was tricky

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Dependent clause: after the bell rang

Start

☐

Middle

☐

End

☒

6. The painting, which was still drying, stayed on the table.

Dependent clause: which was still drying

Start

☐

Middle

☒

End

☐

Name: _____



Build Better Sentences

A dependent clause can add when, where, why or how information to an independent clause.



A. Add a dependent clause to complete each sentence.

1. _____, the class hurried inside.
2. Jayden finished his model _____.
3. _____, Mia checked her spelling.
4. The team kept practising _____.

B. Join each pair into one sentence with a dependent clause.

5. The library was quiet. We whispered to our partners.

New sentence: _____



6. The path was muddy. We walked carefully.

New sentence: _____



Challenge: Write one sentence with a dependent clause in the middle.



Build Better Sentences

A dependent clause can add when, where, why or how information to an independent clause.



A. Add a dependent clause to complete each sentence.

1. Because the rain started, the class hurried inside.
2. Jayden finished his model after he glued the last wheel on.
3. Before she handed in her work, Mia checked her spelling.
4. The team kept practising although they felt tired.

B. Join each pair into one sentence with a dependent clause.

5. The library was quiet. We whispered to our partners.

New sentence: Because the library was quiet, we whispered to our partners.



6. The path was muddy. We walked carefully.

New sentence: Because the path was muddy, we walked carefully.



Challenge: Write one sentence with a dependent clause in the middle.

Mia, who practised all week, read clearly.

Answers may vary if the sentence makes sense.



Name: _____



Match the Clauses



Draw lines to match each independent clause with a dependent clause that makes sense.

A. We put on sunscreen

1. after the final song ended

B. The audience clapped

2. before we went outside

C. I fed the fish

3. because rain was blowing in

D. Zara packed a torch

4. when the track became slippery

E. The runners slowed down

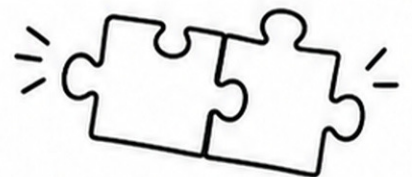
5. so they would not be hungry

F. Dad closed the window

6. in case the power went out



Write one completed sentence:





Name: **ANSWERS**

Match the Clauses



Draw lines to match each independent clause with a dependent clause that makes sense.

A. We put on sunscreen

2

1. after the final song ended

B. The audience clapped

1

2. before we went outside

C. I fed the fish

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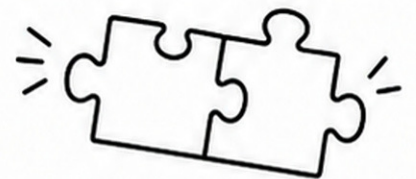
F. Dad closed the window

3

6. in case the power went out



Write one completed sentence:



We put on sunscreen before we went outside.



Name: _____

Clause Hunt in a Paragraph



Read the paragraph. Find independent and dependent clauses.

When the school garden opened, our class explored the new paths. We noticed tiny shoots because the seeds had sprouted after the weekend rain. Harper, who carried the watering can, checked each plant carefully. Although the soil was damp, we added mulch around the seedlings.

1. Underline one independent clause in the paragraph.



Independent clause: _____

2. Write two dependent clauses from the paragraph.

a) _____

b) _____

3. Is this dependent clause at the start, middle or end?

because the seeds had sprouted _____

who carried the watering can _____

Although the soil was damp _____

4. Write your own sentence about the garden with one dependent clause.



Name: ANSWERS

Clause Hunt in a Paragraph



Read the paragraph. Find independent and dependent clauses.

When the school garden opened, our class explored the new paths. We noticed tiny shoots because the seeds had sprouted after the weekend rain. Harper, who carried the watering can, checked each plant carefully. Although the soil was damp, we added mulch around the seedlings.

1. Underline one independent clause in the paragraph.

Independent clause: our class explored the new paths

Other complete clauses may also be correct.



2. Write two dependent clauses from the paragraph.

a) When the school garden opened

b) who carried the watering can

3. Is this dependent clause at the start, middle or end?

because the seeds had sprouted

End

who carried the watering can

Middle

Although the soil was damp

Start

4. Write your own sentence about the garden with one dependent clause.

When the sun came out, we watered the seedlings.

Name: _____



Who, Did What, Where and When?



In a clause, the participant is who or what, the process is the action, and the circumstance adds detail such as where, when, why or how.

A. Underline the process. Circle the participant. Box the circumstance.

1. The bus stopped outside the library.
2. Nina whispered during reading time.
3. The soccer team trained after lunch.
4. Leaves spun across the path.
5. My neighbour waved from the balcony.

B. Build your own clauses.

Participant	Process	Circumstance

Choose one row and write it as a complete sentence.



Who, Did What, Where and When?



In a clause, the participant is who or what, the process is the action, and the circumstance adds detail such as where, when, why or how.

A. Underline the process. Circle the participant. Box the circumstance.

1. The bus stopped outside the library.
2. Nina whispered during reading time.
3. The soccer team trained after lunch.
4. Leaves spun across the path.
5. My neighbour waved from the balcony.

B. Build your own clauses.

Participant	Process	Circumstance
The dog	slept	under the shady tree

Choose one row and write it as a complete sentence.

The dog slept under the shady tree.

Name: _____



Assessment: Camp Day Clause Challenge

Show what you know about independent clauses, dependent clauses and sentence detail.



1. True or False? Write T or F.

- a) An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence. _____
- b) A dependent clause always makes complete sense by itself. _____
- c) A clause usually has a subject and a verb. _____
- d) Dependent clauses can appear at the start, middle or end of a sentence. _____

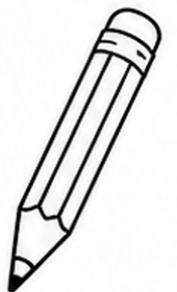
2. Underline the dependent clause in each sentence.

- a) Because the tents were wet, we waited in the hall.
- b) The group cooked damper after the fire was ready.
- c) Our guide, who knew the trail well, led the walk.

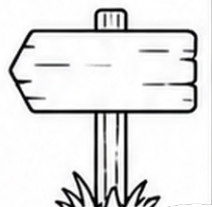


3. Add a dependent clause to improve each independent clause.

- a) _____, we packed the backpacks.
- b) The students checked the map _____.
- c) The bus arrived late _____.



4. Write one camp-day sentence with a dependent clause in the middle.





Name: ANSWERS

Assessment: Camp Day Clause Challenge

Show what you know about independent clauses, dependent clauses and sentence detail.



1. True or False? Write T or F.

- a) An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence. T
- b) A dependent clause always makes complete sense by itself. F
- c) A clause usually has a subject and a verb. T
- d) Dependent clauses can appear at the start, middle or end of a sentence. T

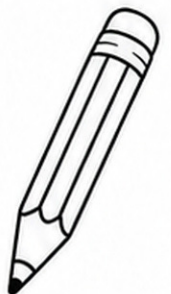
2. Underline the dependent clause in each sentence.

- a) Because the tents were wet, we waited in the hall.
- b) The group cooked damper after the fire was ready.
- c) Our guide, who knew the trail well, led the walk.



3. Add a dependent clause to improve each independent clause.

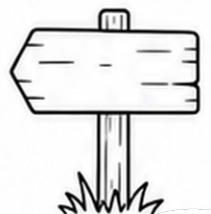
- a) Before we left school, we packed the backpacks.
- b) The students checked the map before they began the hike.
- c) The bus arrived late because there was traffic.



Answers may vary if the sentence makes sense.

4. Write one camp-day sentence with a dependent clause in the middle.

The leader, who carried the first-aid kit, walked at the front.





Year 3 Clauses Unit Rubric

Criteria	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
 Identifies clauses	Needs support to find clauses.	Finds some clauses.	Finds independent and dependent clauses.	Finds clauses and explains the type.	Finds clauses accurately in complex sentences.
 Subject and verb	Needs support to find subject or verb.	Finds some subjects and verbs.	Finds subject and verb in simple clauses.	Finds subject and verb in most clauses.	Explains how subjects and verbs build clauses.
 Uses dependent clauses	Adds clauses with support.	Adds simple dependent clauses.	Uses dependent clauses at start or end.	Uses clauses at start, middle and end.	Uses clauses to add precise detail.
 Sentence meaning	Sentences are often incomplete.	Some sentences make sense.	Sentences are complete and clear.	Sentences are varied and clear.	Sentences are controlled, varied and effective.

Year 3 Clauses Unit



Year 3 Clauses Quiz

