

Phrases and Clauses

WALT: Distinguish between phrases and clauses. Identify different types of phrases and clauses.

Words

- The alphabet contains 26 letters; 5 vowels and 21 consonants.
- These letters come together to make words.
- We can sort words into **eight** main types:

Noun *Determiner* *Adverb*

Adjective *Verb* *Conjunction*

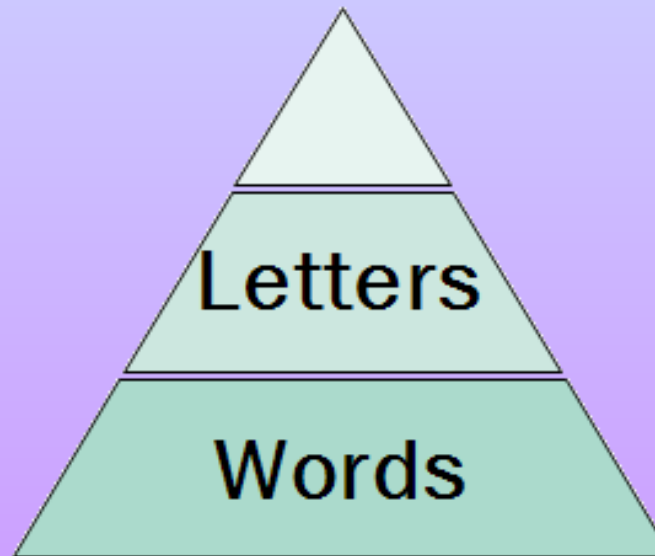
Pronoun

Preposition

Words

*** BE CAREFUL ***

- Words do **NOT** have a word class until they are used in a sentence.
- It is the role the word plays in a sentence that makes it a noun or a verb etc.



For example...

- Do you think the word **cook** is a noun or a verb?
- The answer is that it **DEPENDS** on how it is used in the sentence:

We will **cook** dinner.

In this sentence
'cook' is a **verb**
– it is what we
will be doing.

Here 'cook' is a
noun – it is the
name of
something.

The **cook** chopped onions.

TIP: we know 'cook' is functioning as a
noun because it is introduced by a
determiner.

Words

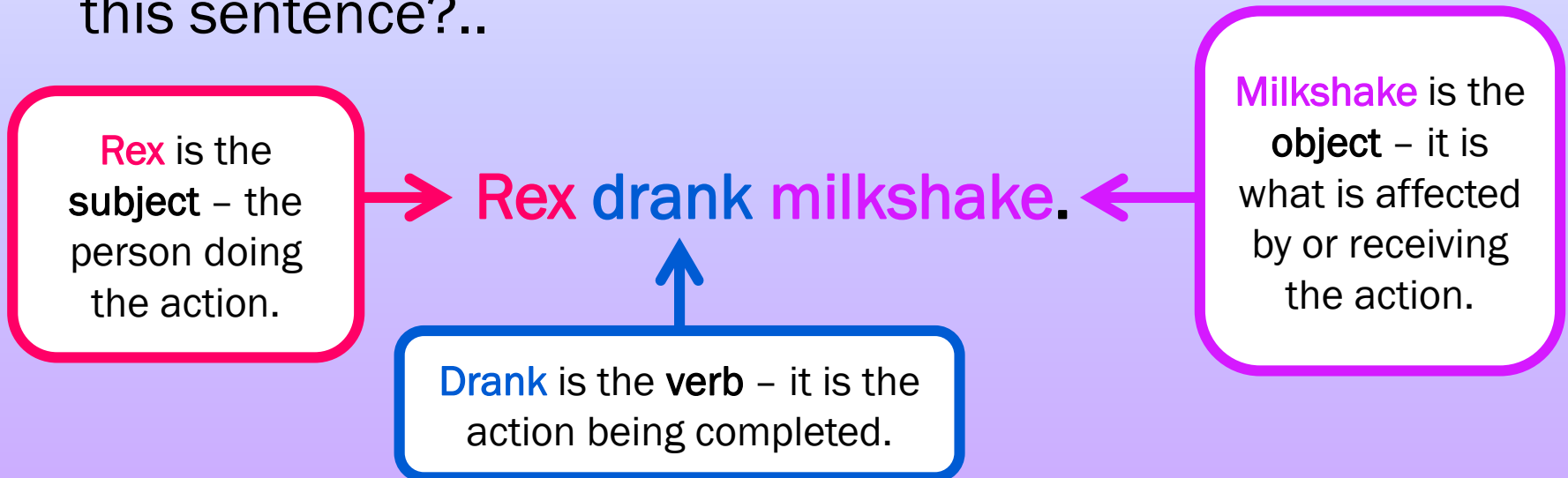
- There are many words which can function differently to how you might expect.

How would you classify each of the words written in bold?

| Sentence | Word Class |
|---|------------|
| The towering oak tree. | Adjective |
| We must chip it away. | Verb |
| Vivian rose to her feet and smelt a rose . | Noun |
| Sam sat on his behind . | Noun |
| A motor-car engine. | Adjective |

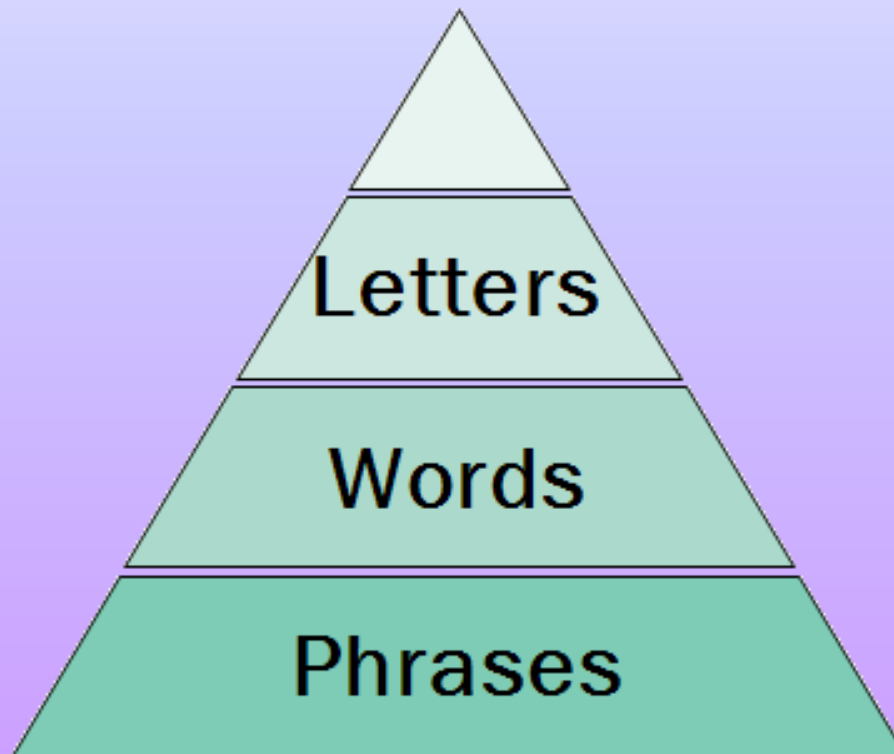
RECAP

- We are now going to look at what happens when we starting joining words together.
- But first, can you tell me the subject, object and verb in this sentence?..



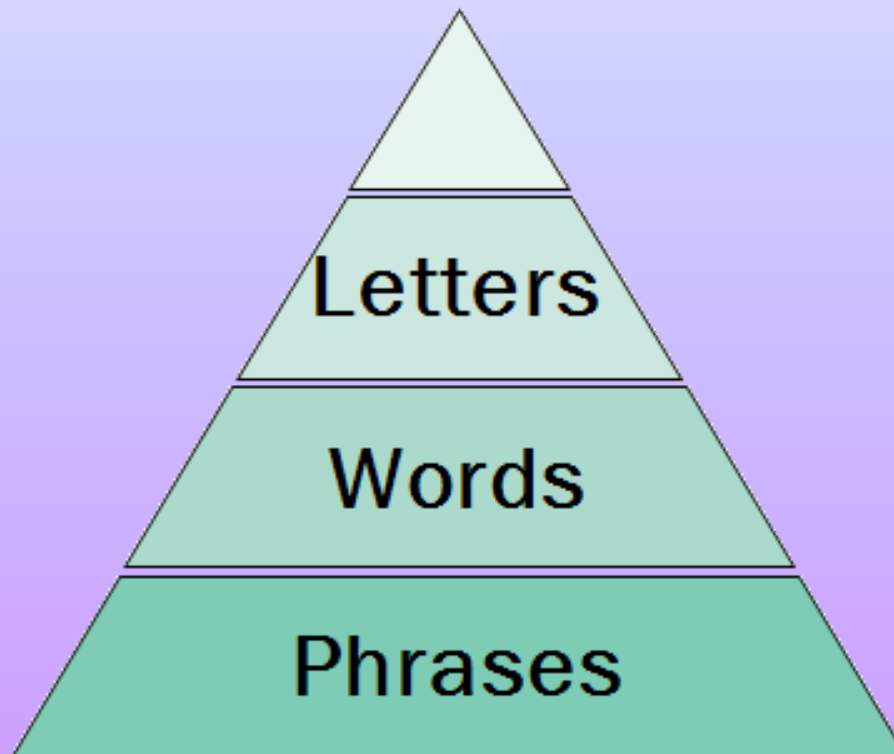
- Being able to identify the SOV will help you to decide how a group of words is functioning.

Phrases



Phrases

- When words joins together they make a **phrase**.
- There are several different types of phrase.



Noun Phrase

- A **noun phrase** is a group of words which tell you more about a noun.
- For example:

The eerie abandoned cottage.

Noun Phrase

- A **noun phrase** is a group of words which tell you more about a noun.
- For example:

'Cottage' is a **noun** – it is the name of something.

The **eerie abandoned cottage**.

'Eerie' and 'abandoned' are **adjectives** – they are describing the noun.

- But together this a **noun phrase** because it tells you more about the cottage.

Noun Phrase

Can you identify the noun phrases?

- I found a brand new pair of trainers.
I found a **brand new pair of trainers**.
- Homemade carrot and orange cake tastes delicious.
Homemade carrot and orange cake tastes delicious.
- Almost all healthy adult foxes can swim.
Almost all healthy adult foxes can swim.

Remember: a noun phrase **only** gives more information about (modifies) a noun.

Adverbial Phrase

- An **adverbial phrase** is a group of words which function like an adverb.
- They tell you **HOW**, **WHEN**, **WHY**, **WHERE** or **HOW MUCH** an action has occurred.
- For example:

| | Example |
|------------------|--|
| Adverb | Harry ran quickly . |
| Adverbial Phrase | Harry ran as fast as he could . |



‘As fast as he could’ is an **adverbial phrase** because it is a group of words which tell us **HOW** Harry ran.

Adverbial Phrase

Can you identify the adverbial phrases?

- After several hours, we arrived at Grandma's house.
After several hours, we arrived at Grandma's house.
- The cake tasted like heaven.
The cake tasted **like heaven**.
- I tiptoed as everyone was asleep.
I tiptoed **as everyone was asleep**.

Remember: an adverbial phrase tells you more about the verb.
Fronted adverbials are always marked with a comma.

Preposition Phrase

- A **preposition phrase** is a group of words which begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun.
- They tell you the *position* or *location* of something.
- For example:

The mouse hid under the wardrobe.

Preposition Phrase

- A **preposition phrase** is a group of words which begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun.
- They tell you the *position* or *location* of something.
- For example:

'under' is a **preposition** – this phrase tells you where the mouse is in relation to the wardrobe.



The mouse hid **under the wardrobe.**

Phrases

- Take a look at some of the phrases we have talked about so far:

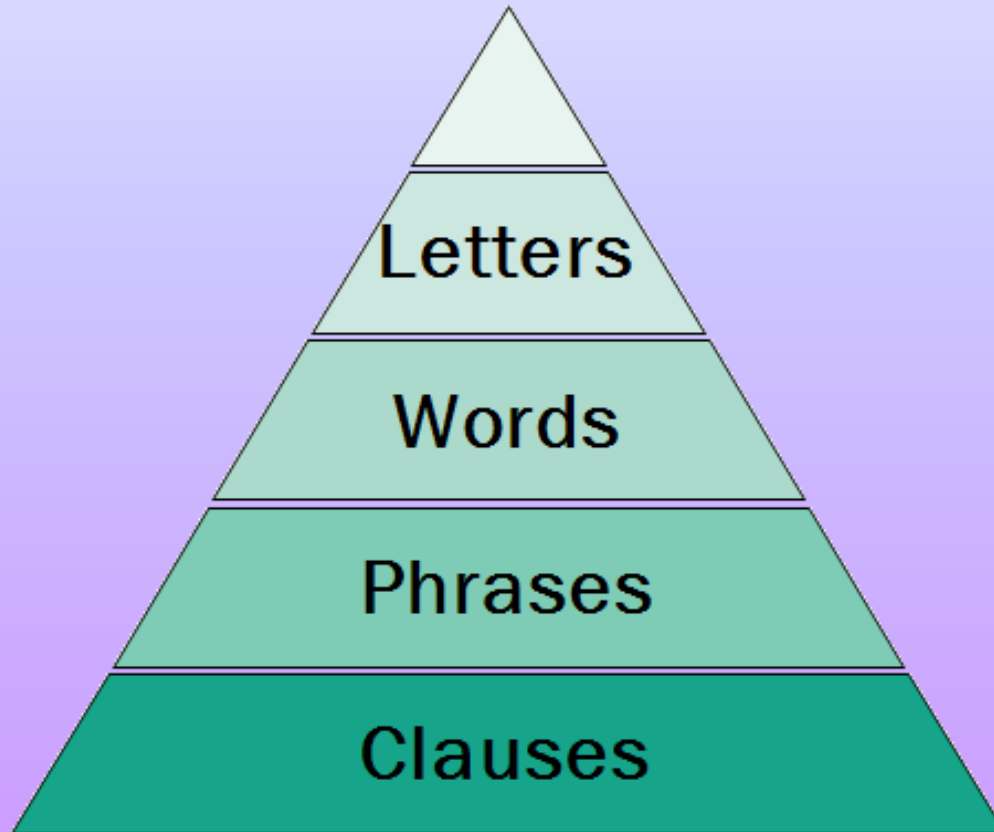
the eerie abandoned cottage

after several hours

under the wardrobe

- Which very common word class is missing?.. **VERBS**
- Phrases which contain verbs have their own special title... **CLAUSES**

Clauses



Clauses

- Phrases which contain a verb are called **clauses**.
- A clause always contains a subject performing a verb → this is why being able to identify the SOV is so important!
- For example:

Lily is the **subject** – the person doing the action.

Lily ran

ran is the **verb** – it is the action being completed.

We have a subject (Lily) performing a verb (ran) so this is a **CLAUSE**

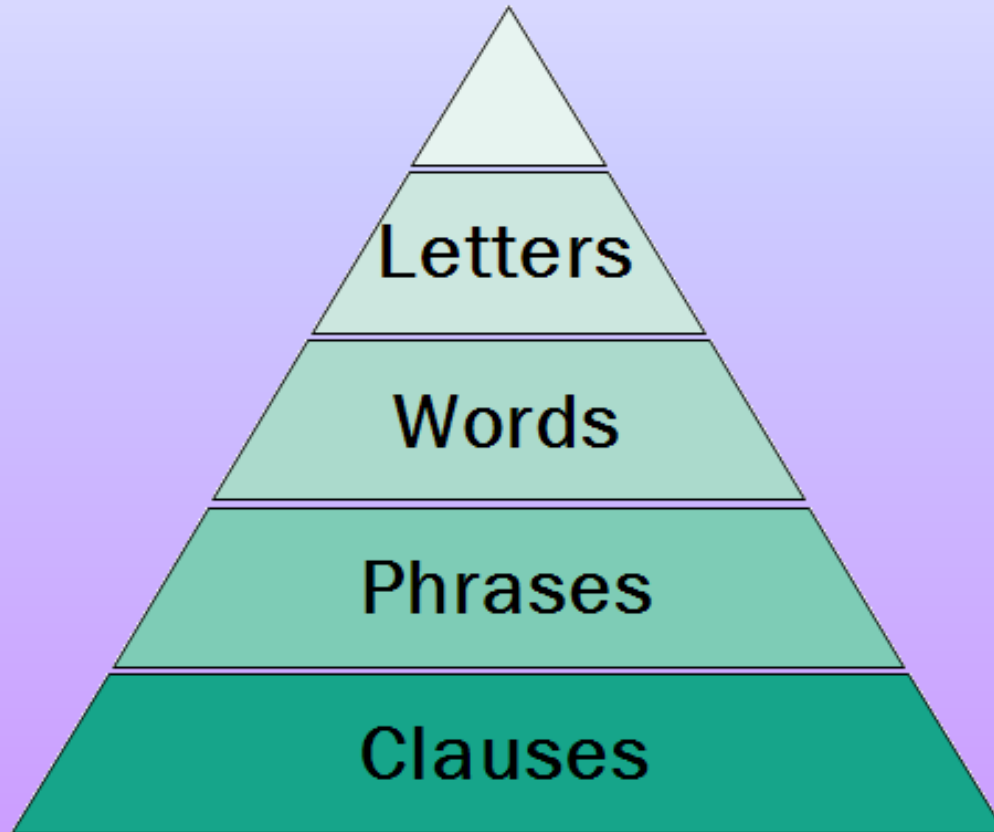
Phrase or Clause?

Decide whether each example is a phrase or clause

| Example | Phrase or Clause? |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Lola sang beautifully | Clause |
| an abandoned ship | Phrase |
| the white flower | Phrase |
| the boys kicked the football | Clause |
| opposite the park | Phrase |
| the wind howled fiercely | Clause |

Clauses

- Just like phrases, there are several different types of clause.



Main Clause

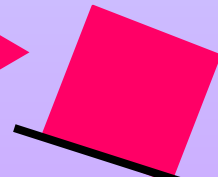
- A **main clause** contains a subject performing a verb.
- Every sentence contains at least one **main clause**.
- The main clause is the most important idea in the sentence. It expresses a complete thought and so **makes sense on its own**.
- The clauses we looked at earlier are all main clauses.

| Example | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Lola sang beautifully. | Clause |
| The boys kicked the football. | Clause |
| The wind howled fiercely. | Clause |

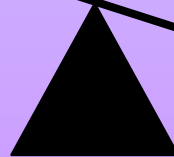
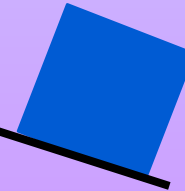
Subordinate Clause

- A subordinate clause gives extra information about the main clause.
- It can come before or after the main clause but **doesn't make sense on its own.**

The main clause contains the **most important idea** in the sentence.



The subordinate clause is less important, it just gives the reader a bit more detail.



Subordinate Clause

- For example:

This is the main clause...
It contains a subject (Harriet) performing a verb (caught) and makes sense on its own



Although she was clumsy, Harriet caught the netball.

Subordinate Clause

- For example:

This is the **main clause**...
It contains a subject (Harriet) performing a verb (caught) and makes sense on its own



Although she was clumsy, Harriet caught the netball.



This is a **subordinate clause**... It is not a complete idea and doesn't make sense without being attached to the main clause.

Main or Subordinate Clause?

Decide whether the underlined section is a main clause or a subordinate clause

| Example | MC | SC |
|---|----|----|
| Emery arrived <u>after the school bell had rung</u> . | | ✓ |
| <u>Although I was terrified</u> , I crept up the creaking staircase. | | ✓ |
| It was raining so <u>we cancelled our picnic</u> . | ✓ | |
| <u>Despite it being -2 °C outside</u> , Frank still didn't bring his jumper to school! | | ✓ |
| On Fridays we normally go swimming but <u>today I forgot my kit</u> . | ✓ | |
| <u>The fox slinked through the dense undergrowth</u> and pounced on the unsuspecting mouse. | ✓ | |

Clause

- So far we have looked at two types of clause: main clauses and subordinate clauses.
- It is important that you are able to distinguish between these.
- **REMEMBER** – both contain a subject performing a verb, but **ONLY** main clauses makes sense on their own.
- There is one other type of clause you should be able to identify...

Relative Clause

- A **relative clause** is a type of subordinate clause.
- It gives more information about the noun in the main clause and begins with a relative pronoun.
- For example:

We visited the farm where my dad works.

Relative Clause

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Relative Clause

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- For example:

This is the **relative clause** – it tells us more about the farm.

We visited the **farm** where my dad works.

Farm is the **noun**.

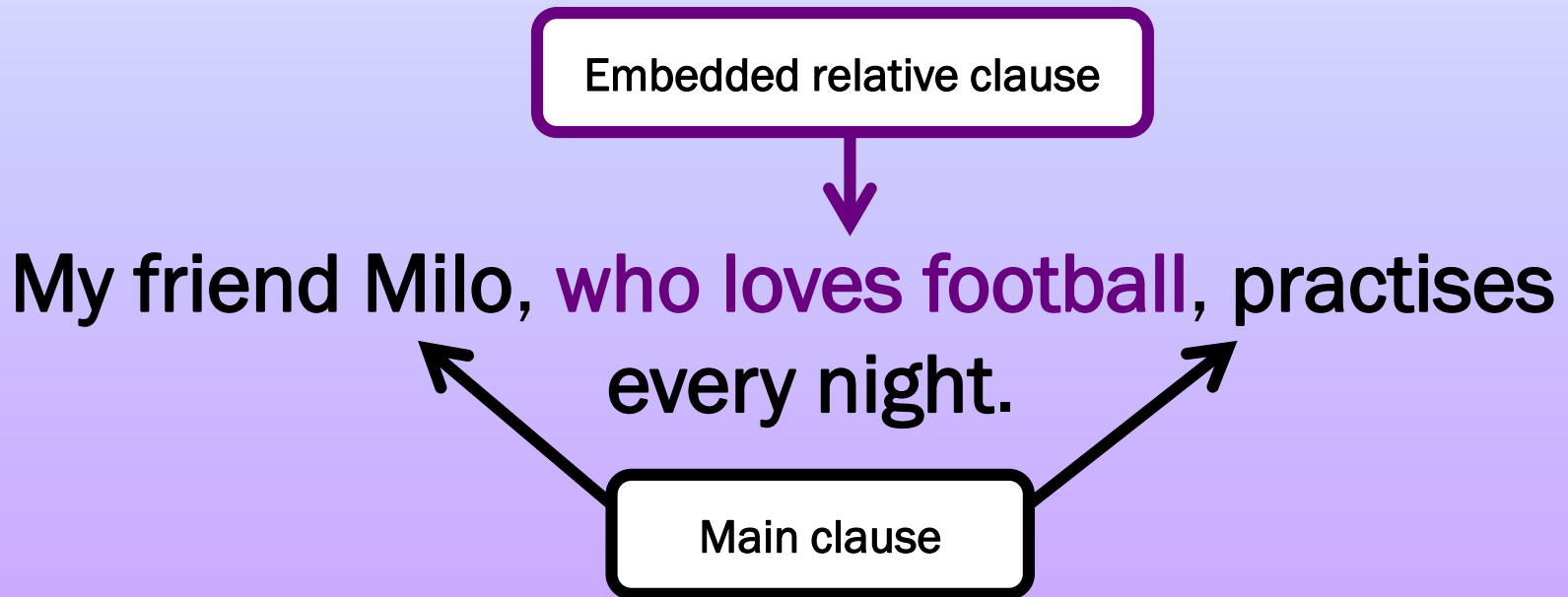
Relative Clause

- Sometimes a relative clause will ‘split’ the main clause – this is called an **embedded relative clause**.
- For example:

My friend Milo, who loves football, practises every night.

Relative Clause

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- For example:



Relative Clause

- Spotting a relative clause is actually quite easy.
- As it is a type of subordinate clause, it will contain a subject performing a verb but WON'T make sense on its own.
- However, it WILL add more information about the noun in the main clause and begin with a relative pronoun.

Relative Clause

- Relative clauses begin with...



When



That



Where



Whose



Which



Who

Relative Clause

Can you identify the relative clauses in these sentences?

- The wolf, who was head of the pack, stretched lazily in the midday sun.
- I did my homework when I got home from school.
- Everly forgot her homework which frustrated Miss Smith.
- The treasure, that Captain Sparrow found, was worth millions.
- The dog, whose owner was at work, chewed the kitchen table.

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Quiz

Main, Subordinate or Relative Clause?

Makes sense on its own...

MAIN
CLAUSE

SUBORDINATE
CLAUSE

RELATIVE
CLAUSE

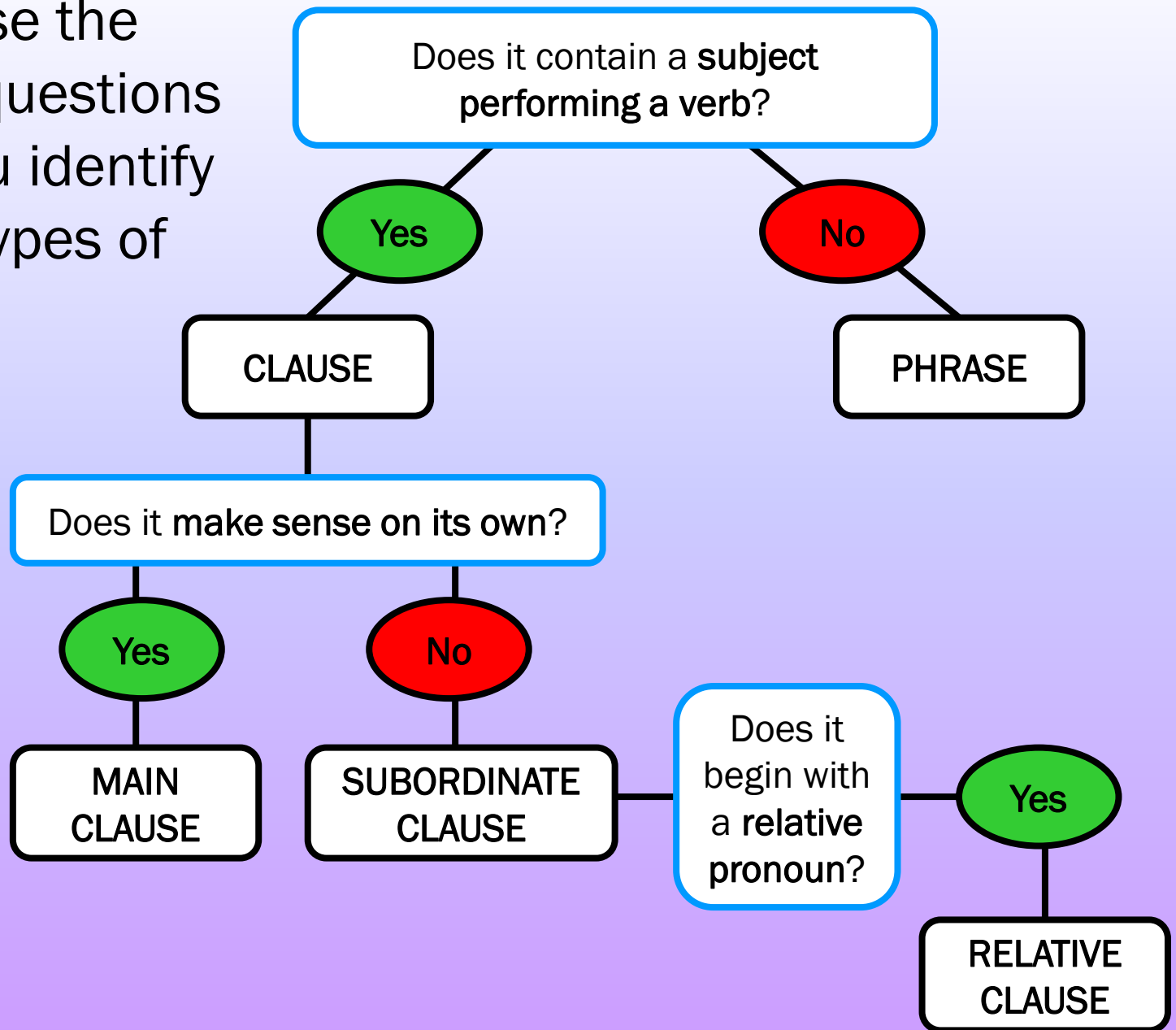
Subordinate or Relative Clause?

Begin with a relative pronoun and refer to (follow) the noun in the main clause...

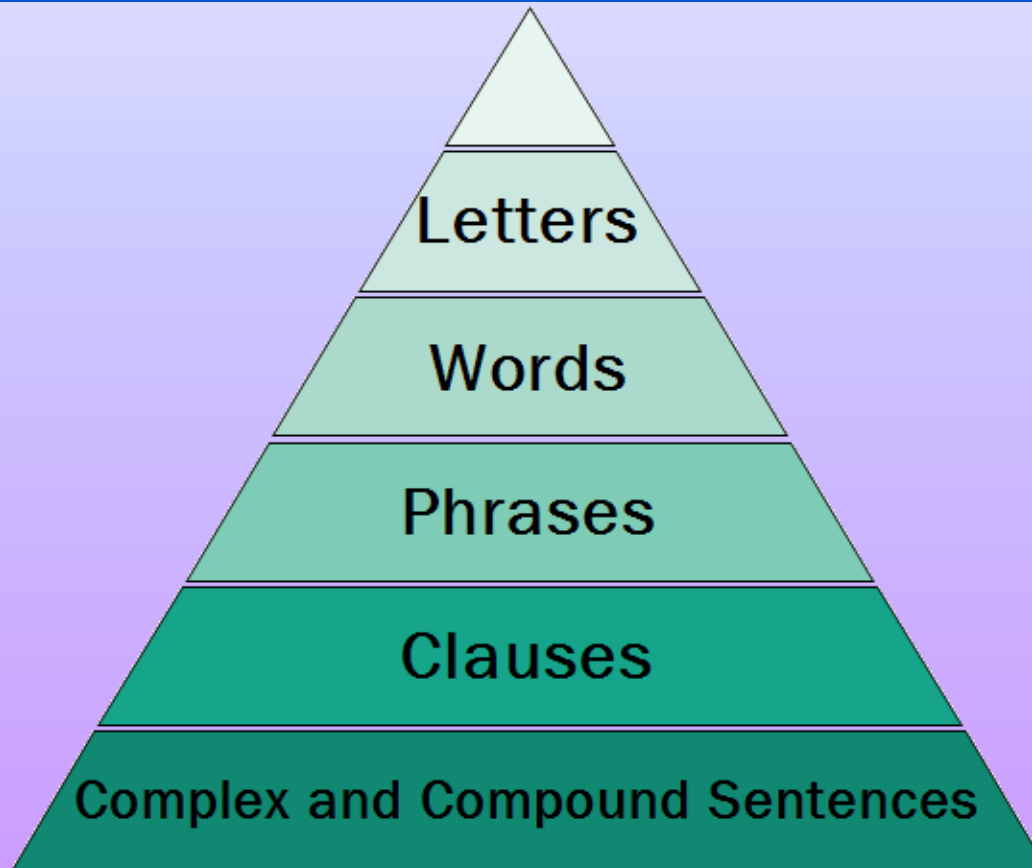
SUBORDINATE
CLAUSE

RELATIVE
CLAUSE

You can use the following questions to help you identify different types of clauses...



Linking Clauses



Linking Clauses


- Although you can construct a sentence from a single clause, complex sentences will contain more than one.
- To link clauses together you need a special type of word class... **CONJUNCTIONS**
- For example:

James stepped on the ice and he slipped over.

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These are both **main clauses** – they contain a subject (James/he) performing a verb (stepped/slipped) and **make sense on their own.**

Linking Clauses

- Although you can construct a sentence from a single clause, complex sentences will contain more than one.
- To link clauses together you need a special type of word class... **CONJUNCTIONS**
- For example:

'and' joins the two main clauses together.

James stepped on the ice **and** he slipped over.

These are both **main clauses** – they contain a subject (James/he) performing a verb (stepped/slipped) and **make sense on their own.**

Coordinating Conjunctions

- Conjunctions which link two main clauses together are called **coordinating conjunctions**.
- There are seven different coordinating conjunctions:

and or
so but

These four
**coordinating
conjunctions**
are used
most often.

nor
yet
for

Subordinating Conjunctions

- Conjunctions which link together a main and a subordinate clause are called **subordinating conjunctions**.
- There are many subordinating conjunctions including:

| Subordinating Conjunctions | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| although | as | because | before |
| despite | if | since | though |
| unless | whereas | while | so that |

CAREFUL– don't confuse 'so that' with just 'so' which is a coordinating conjunction

Conjunctions

*** BE CAREFUL ***

- Although conjunctions link clauses together, they do not have to come **between** two clauses
- For example:

Although she was clumsy, Harriet caught the netball.

Harriet caught the netball although she was clumsy.

Conjunctions

*** BE CAREFUL ***

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- For example:

Although she was clumsy, Harriet caught the netball.

Harriet caught the netball **although** she was clumsy.

- In both sentences, 'although' is acting as a subordinating conjunction.

Conjunctions

Can you identify the conjunctions in these sentences?

- Lexi played outside until it was time for dinner.
Lexi played outside **until** it was time for dinner.
- Before mum arrived home, Henry dared me to eat a slug.
Before mum arrived home, Henry dared me to eat a slug.
- Oscar wasn't paying attention so he walked into the lamppost!
Oscar wasn't paying attention **so** he walked into the lamppost!

Points to Remember

A group of words joins together to make a **phrase**.

A **clause** **ALWAYS** contains a subject performing a verb.

There are three types of clause:

- **Main clause** → Makes sense on its own.
- **Subordinate clause** → does **NOT** make sense on its own, it must be 'attached' to a main clause.
- **Relative clause** → a special type of subordinate clause. They start with a relative pronoun and tell you more about the noun in the main clause.

Conjunctions link clauses together. They can come in between the two clauses or at the beginning of the sentence.