Creating Sentences Using Subordinate Clauses

Main Clause	Subordinate Clause
We will go to the fair	provided that there is enough.
Put on your coat	before it's too late.
I'd love a slice of cake	because I'm bored.
I'm going into town	unless I say otherwise.
You should sit down	if it gets cold.
Put a tick next to it	until we get tired.
It should be fine	whenever you feel like it.

How many correct sentences can you make by joining the main and subordinate clauses? You can use each clause more than once.

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Can you make a complete sentence by writing a subordinate clause to follow the main clause? The first one has been done for you.

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We will go to the fair	
Put on your coat	
I'd love a slice of cake	
I'm going into town	
You should sit down	
Put a tick next to it	
It should be fine	

 Sentences with relative clauses are called multi-clause – they contain a main clause and a subordinate clause. The subordinate clause has a relative pronoun at the start. It can't be a sentence by itself. Choose two colours; one for main clauses and one for subordinate clauses. Highlight the clauses in each sentence.

Look at these examples:

- My dog's fur is very curly, which means it's hard to brush.
- · Go and get a sticker from Mr Brown, who is standing at the finish line.
- · Oranges, which contain lots of vitamins, are really good for you.

Now have a go at the sentences.

Highlight the main clause in one colour and the relative clause in another. Use the underline or bold feature to show what the relative pronoun is.

- a) Alana, who has always got shiny hair, always looks smart for school.
- b) My cousins live in Canada, which is a long way to go to visit!
- c) These three girls, who have worked hard on their Maths project, can have

a prize each!

d) The Peak District, which is an excellent place for walking, climbing and

biking, is a national park in Derbyshire.

- e) The dog wagging his tail is called Spot, who always jumps up at people.
- f) The film, which had me on the edge of my seat, was tremendously exciting.
- g) Look for the spelling in the dictionary, which is an Oxford English Dictionary.

h) There aren't any chips, which means I have to have potatoes instead.