



Clauses and Conjunctions



Clauses

Clauses are groups of words with an **active verb** and a **subject**; they make sense.

Harry **looked** around in amazement.

They **stepped** through the archway.

The **sun** **shone** brightly on a stack of cauldrons.

A cobbled **street** **twisted** out of sight.



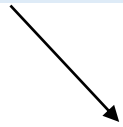
The **subject** is 'the doer' of the verb; it can be a noun or pronoun.

Conjunctions are joining words

They help **add more detail** by joining new **clauses**... explaining **when, why** or **where** something happened.



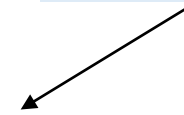
A main clause



Harry looked around in amazement

until

A new clause



they stepped through the archway

When?
before
after
when
while
as
until

When?

The choice of **conjunction** will change the **meaning**.

Different conjunctions help us add different types of information



When?

before
after
when
while
as
until

I am worn **until** I declare which house a student should join.

Why?

because
as
so

I am worn **because** I can sense where you belong.

Where?

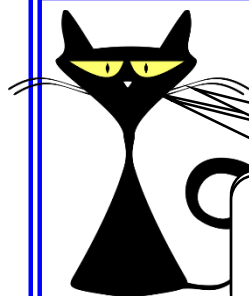
where
wherever

I am worn **where** students are judged.

I am worn...



Add more detail by adding an extra clause



Some **other combinations** will also work.

Hermione found a new spell book

Ron dropped his wand

Harry hung on to the broomstick

Professor McGonagall appeared

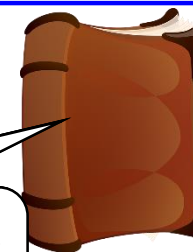
until

when

where

because

Conjunctions can join the **clauses**.



Some combinations will **not make sense**.



he was surprised by a house elf

she was in the library

a cat had been sitting moments before

he caught the snitch



Does it matter which conjunction you choose?



Malfoy grinned **before** Gryffindor won the cup

Malfoy grinned **until** Gryffindor won the cup

Malfoy grinned **after** Gryffindor won the cup

Do these all have the same
meaning?

Order of Clauses

When we add an **extra clause**,
it **adds information** to the **main clause**.

Has this changed
the **impact** of the
sentence? How?

Subordinate clause

Subor Main clause

Harry looked around in amazement

when

they stepped through the archway

The **main clause** can go at the **beginning** of the sentence...
or go at the **end** of it.



Order of Clauses – When to use a Comma

If you add a clause **after a main clause**, you don't usually need a comma.

If the **added clause (subordinate) is first**, separate it with a **comma**.

Harry's broomstick snapped.

Harry's broomstick snapped **as he crashed into the tree**.

As he crashed into the tree, Harry's broomstick snapped.

The **comma** tells you to say the first clause *differently*.
Try it.

The **comma** tells your reader or listener that the main bit is coming.



Order of Clauses – When to use a Comma

Answers

Read these sentences. Which clauses need a comma?

Harry's broomstick snapped where it struck the branch.

The class cheered when they heard the lesson was cancelled.

Because he was nervous Ron's hands trembled.

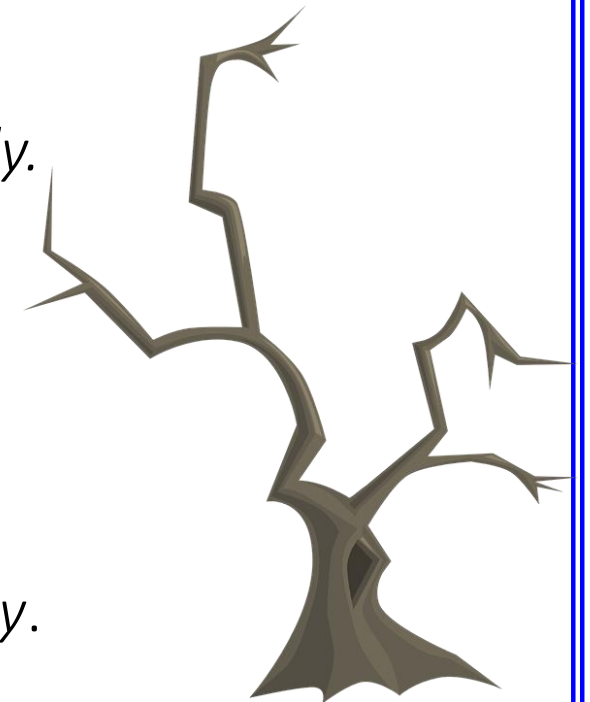
Before she sneaked out of the dormitory Hermione listened carefully.

Where it struck the branch Harry's broomstick snapped.

When they heard the lesson was cancelled the class cheered.

Ron's hands trembled because he was nervous.

Hermione listened carefully before she sneaked out of the dormitory.



Order of Clauses – When to use a Comma

Answers

Read these sentences. Which clauses need a comma?

*Harry's broomstick snapped **where** it struck the branch.*

*The class cheered **when** they heard the lesson was cancelled.*

***Because** he was nervous, Ron's hands trembled.*

***Before** she sneaked out of the dormitory, Hermione listened carefully.*

***Where** it struck the branch, Harry's broomstick snapped.*

***When** they heard the lesson was cancelled, the class cheered.*

*Ron's hands trembled **because** he was nervous.*

*Hermione listened carefully **before** she sneaked out of the dormitory.*

