

Subordinate clauses

A clause is ...

a group of words that could be a sentence.

It has ...

a subject – it is about something.

a verb – the subject *does, feels* or *is* something, or something is *done* to it.

Subordinate clauses

A clause is a *clause* and not a *sentence* when...

it joins with another *clause* or *phrase* to make one sentence.

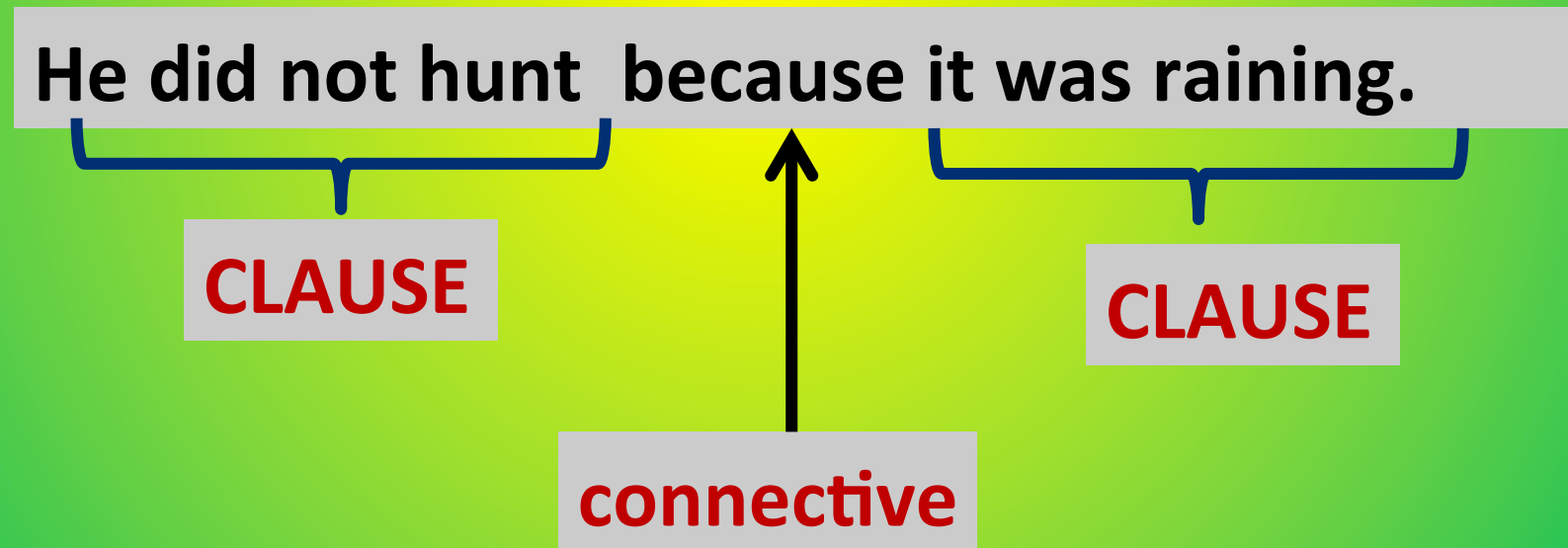
For example here are two *sentences*...

He did not hunt.

It was raining.

Subordinate clauses

If I join these two sentences with a connective they become one longer sentence, with two clauses.



because is a subordinating conjunction

Subordinate clauses

A main clause gives the main point of a sentence.

A subordinate clause provides extra information.

He did not hunt because it was raining.



MAIN CLAUSE – the main point of my sentence.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE – extra information linked to the main clause.

The *conjunction* shows the relationship between the two clauses.

Subordinate clauses

Remember, the subordinate information can come at the start of a sentence. If a sentence starts with a subordinating conjunction (connective), it is starting with the subordinate clause.

subordinating conjunction

a comma is often used between clauses

As the sun was setting, the tiger stalked her prey.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE – extra information linked to the main clause.

MAIN CLAUSE – the main point.

Subordinate clauses

A subordinate clause can also be embedded within a main clause. The extra information is added in the middle of the main clause. Note the *two comma trick*.

MAIN CLAUSE begins

MAIN CLAUSE ends

The tiger, who was ravenous, stalked her prey.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE –
extra information linked
to the main clause.

2 commas used to
separate the embedded
subordinate clause.