



Developing deeper subject knowledge: Unit 1 - How to teach subordinate clauses

Teaching activities to try

- Give children a list of statements and ask them to add a subordinate clause to the sentences. For example, 'My teacher is always scruffy' becomes 'My teacher, who has short brown hair, is always scruffy'.
- Ask children to label the parts of a sentence, identifying the main and subordinate clause.
- Give children a chopped up multi-clause sentence and ask them to create a sentence that makes sense.
- Noisy sentences - read out a sentence with a relative clause and ask the children to clap or make a noise to show where the commas have been used. This mainly applies to non-defining relative clauses.

Planning your next steps

Are teachers and children using the correct terminology for subordinate clauses across the school?

Year Group	Terminology in the National Curriculum	Terminology not used in the National Curriculum
2	A subordinating conjunction is called a 'joining word' in Year 2 and a 'subordinating conjunction' from Year 3 onward	Connective
3-6	Subordinate clause Relative clause Main clause	Embedded clause Dropped-in clause Complex sentence Dependent clause

Are subordinate clauses being explicitly taught from Year 3 onwards? (Please note that subordinate clauses can be taught in context, but children will need to know what is generally included within a subordinate clause, e.g. subject, verb etc.)

Are defining and non-defining relative clauses being taught from Year 5 onwards?

Are there further areas with which teachers would like more support?