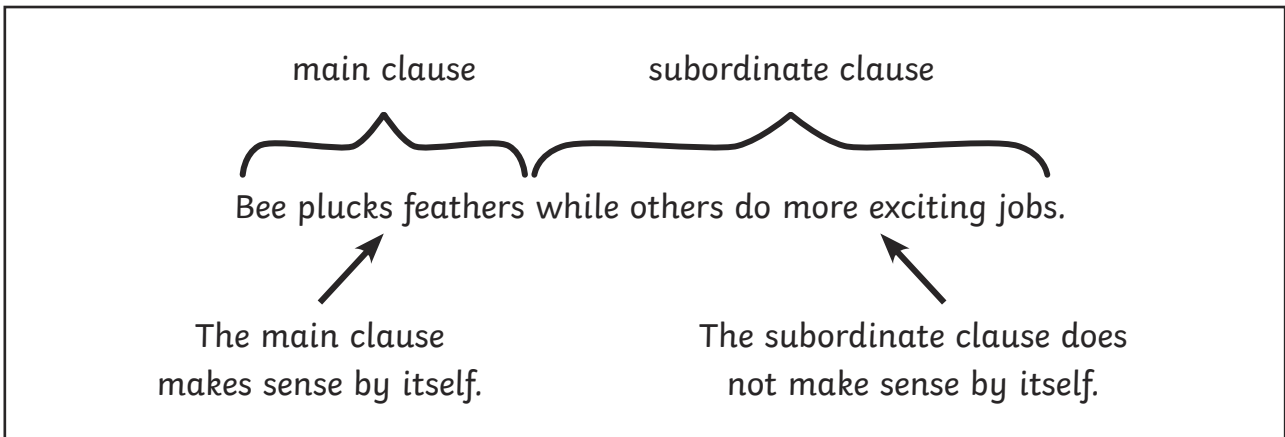# Subordinate Clauses

## Part A

A clause is a group of words which contains a subject and a verb.

A main clause makes sense by itself.

A subordinate clause tells you more about the main clause. It only makes sense when it is with the main clause.



The subordinate clause starts with a subordinating conjunction. Here are some examples of subordinating conjunctions:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **if** | **since** | **as** | **when** | **although** | **while** | **after** | **before** | **until** | **because** |

Underline the subordinate clause in each sentence below. (Remember: it won't always be at the end.)

The first one has been done for you.

1. <u>**Before Bee can pluck feathers from the duck**</u>, she needs to get the duck from Dog's jaws.

2. Dad's goatskin tunic doesn't go all the way around his belly because his stomach is large.

3. When the tribe move from place to place, they carry everything they own on their backs.

4. Although duck skin makes lovely soft underpants, Bee says that she hates ducks.

5. Dad says that Bee needs to accept that her job is to pluck feathers until she is older.

6. Bee whacks Rat with a plucked duck before he manages to step on her.

7. Dog and Bee slink off into the shadows as they are not involved in the Ritual.

Now choose suitable subordinating conjunctions to fill the gaps below.

8. Bee has looked after Dog _____ he was born.

9. Dad thinks Bee has lots to learn _____ she can do lots of other jobs for the tribe.

10. _____ Bee loves her dad, she gets annoyed with him sometimes.

11. _____ Bee sees the cave lion mask, she starts to giggle.

12. Bee laughs _____ she thinks it looks as if the mask is eating Bent Tree's face.

13. Bee stumbles _____ someone pushes her from behind.

14. The Ritual begins _____ the tribe members put on their masks and furs.

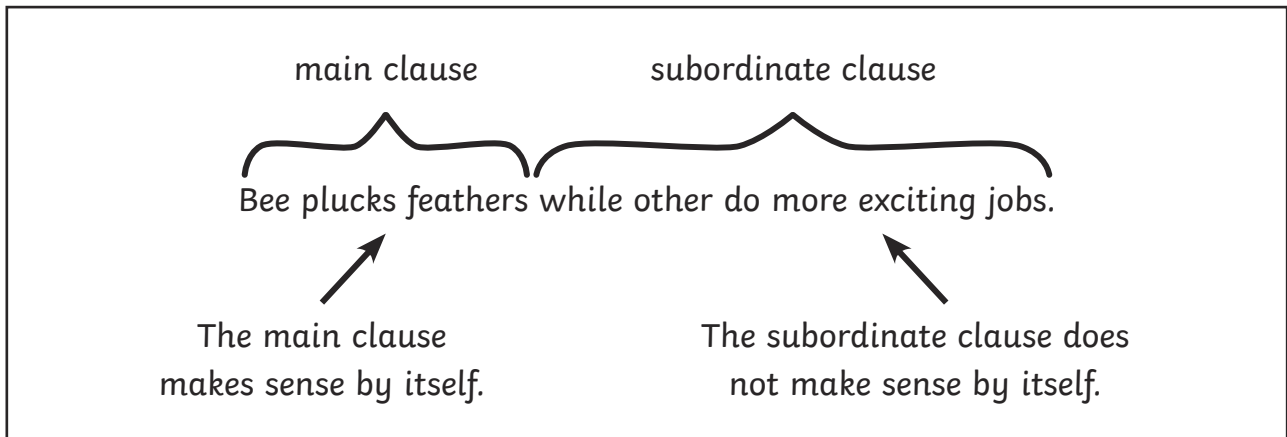Finish off this sentence using a subordinate clause:

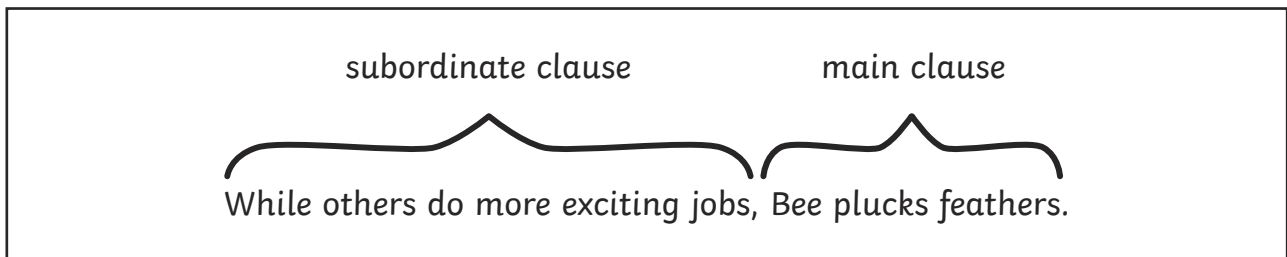15. Bee knows that she should listen to her dad _____

_____

## Part B

A clause is a group of words which contains a subject and a verb.

A main clause makes sense by itself.

A subordinate clause tells you more about the main clause. It only makes sense when it is with the main clause.

main clause       subordinate clause

Bee plucks feathers while other do more exciting jobs.

The main clause makes sense by itself.

The subordinate clause does not make sense by itself.

We can switch the clauses around so that the subordinate clause comes first.

subordinate clause       main clause

While others do more exciting jobs, Bee plucks feathers.

When the subordinate clause is at the start of the sentence, we add a comma to separate the clauses.

Change the order of these sentences so that they start with the subordinate clause.

1. Bee continues to complain although her dad takes little notice of her.

   _____

2. Bee's dad gets to do lots of fun jobs because he is one of the tribe's elders.

   _____

3. Bee knows that she would be a fantastic hunter if she had the chance to learn how.

   _____

4. Dad makes new bows from animal guts after the elders come back from their hunt.

   _____

5. Dad sings merrily while he is tanning.

   _____

6. Bent Tree sits peacefully with her eyes shut all day after she has made the fire.

   _____

7. Dad, Bee and Dog run behind Vulture until they reach a clearing.

   _____

8. Bee rolls her eyes when Dad tells the story of where the cave lion mask came from.

   _____

9. Bee and Dog do their own procession while the rest of the tribe perform the Ritual.

   _____

**Challenge Task**

Write your own sentences that include subordinate clauses. Ideally, your sentences should be about 'How to Skin a Bear'. You can use this word bank of subordinating conjunctions to help.

| if | since | as | when | although | while | after | before | until | because |
|----|-------|-----|------|----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------|

_____

_____

_____

_____

# Subordinate Clauses Answers

## Part A

1. <u>**Before Bee can pluck feathers from the duck**</u>, she needs to get the duck from Dog's jaws.

2. Dad's goatskin tunic doesn't go all the way around his belly <u>**because his stomach is large**</u>.

3. <u>**When the tribe move from place to place**</u>, they carry everything they own on their backs.

4. <u>**Although duck skin makes lovely soft underpants**</u>, Bee says that she hates ducks.

5. Dad says that Bee needs to accept that her job is to pluck feathers <u>**until she is older**</u>.

6. Bee whacks Rat with a plucked duck <u>**before he manages to step on her**</u>.

7. Dog and Bee slink off into the shadows <u>**as they are not involved in the Ritual**</u>.

8. Bee has looked after Dog <u>**since**</u> he was born.

9. Dad thinks Bee has lots to learn <u>**before**</u> she can do lots of other jobs for the tribe.

10. <u>**Although**</u> Bee loves her dad, she gets annoyed with him sometimes.

11. <u>**When**</u> Bee sees the cave lion mask, she starts to giggle.

12. Bee laughs <u>**because**</u> she thinks it looks as if the mask is eating Bent Tree's face.

13. Bee stumbles <u>**as**</u> someone pushes her from behind.

14. The Ritual begins <u>**after**</u> the tribe members put on their masks and furs.

15. Example answer: Bee knows that she should listen to her dad <u>**because he wants what is best for her**</u>.

## Part B

1. Bee continues to complain although her dad takes little notice of her.

   **Although her dad takes little notice of her, Bee continues to complain.**

2. Bee's dad gets to do lots of fun jobs because he is one of the tribe's elders.

   **Because he is one of the tribe's elders, Bee's dad gets to do lots of fun jobs.**

3. Bee knows that she would be a fantastic hunter if she had the chance to learn how.

   **If she had the chance to learn how, Bee knows that she would be a fantastic hunter.**

4. Dad makes new bows from animal guts after the elders come back from their hunt.

   **After the elders come back from their hunt, Dad makes new bows from animal guts.**

5. Dad sings merrily while he is tanning.

   **While he is tanning, Dad sings merrily.**

6. Bent Tree sits peacefully with her eyes shut all day after she has made the fire.

   **After she has made the fire, Bent Tree sits peacefully with her eyes shut all day.**

7. Dad, Bee and Dog run behind Vulture until they reach a clearing.

   **Until they reach a clearing, Dad, Bee and Dog run behind Vulture.**

8. Bee rolls her eyes when Dad tells the story of where the cave lion mask came from.

   **When Dad tells the story of where the cave lion mask came from, Bee rolls her eyes.**

9. Bee and Dog do their own procession while the rest of the tribe perform the Ritual.

   **While the rest of the tribe perform the Ritual, Bee and Dog do their own procession.**

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**Challenge Task**

Example answers:

**Although Bee can be stubborn, she is a likeable character.**

**I think that Bee will get to do lots of jobs in the tribe before the story ends.**