

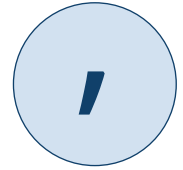


SPaG Starters **Commas for Subordinate Clauses**

A subordinate clause is an extra piece of information within a sentence.

Subordinate clauses found at the beginning and middle of sentences are usually separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.

Subordinate clauses found at the end of the sentence are only separated by a comma if it makes the meaning clearer.



e.g.

They had to walk home despite the torrential rain and wind.

If the subordinate clause is at the end of the sentence, it is not necessary to add a comma, unless for clarity.

Despite the torrential rain and wind, they had to walk home.

If the subordinate clause is placed at start of the sentence, you need to add a comma to separate it from the main clause.

Can you identify the subordinate clause and punctuate it correctly?

1. My dog who is six years old can stand on her hind legs.

2. Although I tried to be on time I was late for the meeting.

3. I didn't eat the hot dogs because I am vegetarian.

Now have a go at writing your own complex sentence.

Practise writing it differently as you move the subordinate clause around. Make sure you use commas correctly to separate the subordinate clause from the main clause.



SPaG Starters **Commas for Subordinate Clauses Answers**

1. My dog who is six years old can stand on her hind legs.

My dog, who is six years old, can stand on her hind legs.

2. Although I tried to be on time I was late for the meeting.

Although I tried to be on time, I was late for the meeting.

3. I didn't eat the hot dogs because I am vegetarian.

I didn't eat the hot dogs because I am vegetarian.

