MHS ENGLISH DEPT S3 ENGLISH HOMEWORK

**MAIN CLAUSES AND SUBORDINATE CLAUSES**

Sentences are made up of **clauses.** A clause is a group of related words containing a subject and a verb. In short simple sentences there is just one clause e.g. The boy walked to school.

However, longer sentences can have two or more clauses.

e.g. The boy walked to school but his sister went by bus.

The **main clause** has been underlined in the above sentence. The **main clause** could stand on its own as a sentence but it need not come first in the sentence.

e.g. When I go to school, I always walk.

The **main clause** has been underlined in the above sentence; this is the one that can make sense on its own.

**COPY the above into your jotter.**

**TASK 1: Copy the following sentences into your jotter and underline the main clause in each sentence.**

1. We were getting ready for bed when the electricity failed.
2. If I do my homework early, I am allowed out to play.
3. The horse bolted at the fair and threw its rider.
4. The garden was flooded because it had rained all night.
5. The pop star appeared at the concert and performed well.
6. Although I am a strong swimmer I do not like it when the water

is too deep.

1. After we had our lunch, we all went to the park.
2. I could see my friend at the football match but I was unable to attract his attention.
3. When the party was over, we all felt very tired but happy.
4. Sonia had to remain in bed because she had flu. **(10)**

**COPY the following into your jotter**

**Subordinate clauses** tell us more about the main part of the sentence.

The **subordinate clause** is a way of adding more information onto the **main clause.**

The **subordinate clause** could not stand as a sentence on its own.

Example: He found the treasure where the pirates had buried it.

‘He found the treasure’ make sense standing on their own as a complete sentence. This is the main clause.

‘where the pirates had buried it’ could not stand on their own; this is a subordinate clause.

**TASK 2: Read the following sentences and write down only the subordinate clause in your jotter.**

1. David takes his time when deciding what paintbrush to use.
2. While looking at a Van Gogh painting, Evelyn tries to copy it.
3. Until your behaviour improves you can’t go out with your

friends.

1. Go and help the old lady who is trying to cross the road.
2. I cannot come with you unless you lend me some money. **(5)**

**TASK 3: The following sentences have their main clauses in bold type. Or do they? Copy the numbers 1 – 15 in your jotter and write CORRECT or INCORRECT beside each one.**

1. My picture was in the paper **after raising the most money**.
2. I will speak to the teacher **when** **the rest of the class has left**.
3. **When I come home from school**, I usually watch television.
4. Although he is a pensioner, **my uncle enjoys computer games.**
5. **If I can save up enough money**, I will buy a new computer game.
6. **My sister tried on ten different outfits** before finally choosing one!
7. Have you seen the trailer for the new ‘Hunger Games’ film **which is showing on tv just now?**
8. **As she walked home from the party**, Joanna saw a fox.
9. **We lost the match** despite scoring two goals in the final minutes.
10. If I can, **I will take six weeks off work to travel abroad**.
11. Abi is studying Russian **before she moves there for her job**.
12. **I’m terrified of spiders** but don’t know why!
13. When the school have a bake sale, **Mum makes brownies**.
14. **I ate all my meal** just to be polite.
15. **Despite the weather**, football training went ahead**. (15)**

**TOTAL (30)**