



the Simple Sentence

Level 1a

the **main clause**
(no conjunction)

Level 1b

the **coordinate clause**
(is introduced by a coordinating conjunction)

Level 2

the **subordinate clause**
(is introduced by a subordinating conjunction)

Level 3

the **subordinate phrase/word**
(with or without a conjunction)

Syntax

Syntax is the ways into which words can be put together in order to make phrases, clauses, and, eventually, sentences.

a Sentence

A sentence is a unit of written language that begins with [1] a capital letter and ends with either [2a] a full stop, [2b] a question mark, or [2c] an exclamation mark.

the Operational Levels

□ The main clause operates at the highest level, i.e. Level 1.

□ The coordinate clause operates at the same level as □ the main clause, i.e. Level 1. The main difference between □ the main clause and □ the coordinate clause is that □ the coordinate clause is introduced by □ a coordinating conjunction and □ the main clause is not. □ A coordinating conjunction coordinates □ the main clause and □ the coordinate clause, i.e. puts them on the same level, indicating that they have the same status.

□ The subordinate clause operates at a lower level than □ the main clause and □ the coordinate clause, and at a higher level than □ the subordinate phrase/word, i.e. Level 2. □ The subordinate clause is introduced by □ a subordinating conjunction. □ A subordinating conjunction subordinates □ the subordinate clause to □ the main clause, i.e. puts □ the subordinate clause at a lower level, indicating that they do not have the same status. □ The subordinate clause is at a lower level because it adds to, completes, explains, etc., the information that is in □ the main clause – □ the coordinate clause does not do that. □ The subordinate clause depends – for its sense – on □ the main clause.

□ The subordinate phrase/word operates at the lowest level, i.e. Level 3. □ The subordinate phrase/word adds to the information that is in □ the main clause.

the operational levels	the highest level ↑	Level 1a	the main clause	Level 1b	the coordinate clause
	the mid-level (i.e. lower than the highest level, and higher than the lowest level) ↓	Level 2	the subordinate clause		
	the lowest level ↓	Level 3	the subordinate phrase/word		

[1] the Simple Sentence

[1] The simple sentence consists of only □ one main clause (also known as 'the principal clause' or 'the independent clause').

the Main Clause

□ The main clause (also known as 'the principal clause' or 'the independent clause') is a clause that [1] can stand alone as a complete sentence and make sense, [2] is neither subordinate nor coordinate to any other clause, and [3] typically has a subject and a predicate.

a Clause

In grammar, a clause is a group of words which contain a subject and a predicate, provided that the predicate includes either a finite verbal form, a finite verbal group, a linking verbal form, or a linking verbal group. The subject of a clause is either a noun, a noun phrase, or a pronoun. The predicate of a clause is all parts which do not contain the subject. The predicate of a clause makes a statement about its subject.

Please note that when a sentence consists of only □ one main clause, it is one sentence and one clause at the same time, e.g. 'I love you.'

Examples

The underneath example, i.e. 'He loves her.', consists of only □ **one main clause**, and therefore it is [1] the simple sentence. □ **The main clause**, i.e. 'He loves her.', [1] stands alone as a complete sentence and makes sense, [2] is neither subordinate nor coordinate to any other clause, and contains a **subject** (i.e. 'he') and a **predicate** (i.e. 'loves her'). The predicate includes a **finite verbal form**, i.e. 'loves'. The predicate of a clause makes a statement about **its subject**. □ **The main clause**, i.e. 'He loves her.', operates at the highest level, i.e. Level 1a.

[1] the simple sentence		
Level 1a	He loves her.	the main clause
Level 1b	↑ Clause 1	the coordinate clause
Level 2		the subordinate clause
Level 3		the subordinate phrase/word
[1] The simple sentence consists of only one main clause.		
He loves her.		

The underneath example, i.e. 'The baby is crying again.', consists of only □ **one main clause**, and therefore it is [1] the simple sentence. □ **The main clause**, i.e. 'The baby is crying again.', [1] stands alone as a complete sentence and makes sense, [2] is neither subordinate nor coordinate to any other clause, and contains a **subject** (i.e. 'the baby') and a **predicate** (i.e. 'is crying again'). The predicate includes a **finite verbal group**, i.e. 'is crying'. The predicate of a clause makes a statement about **its subject**. □ **The main clause**, i.e. 'The baby is crying again.', operates at the highest level, i.e. Level 1a.

[1] the simple sentence		
Level 1a	The baby is crying again.	the main clause
Level 1b	↑ Clause 1	the coordinate clause
Level 2		the subordinate clause
Level 3		the subordinate phrase/word
[1] The simple sentence consists of only one main clause.		
The baby is crying again.		

The underneath example, i.e. 'She is very beautiful.', consists of only □ **one main clause**, and therefore it is [1] the simple sentence. □ **The main clause**, i.e. 'She is very beautiful.', [1] stands alone as a complete sentence and makes sense, [2] is neither subordinate nor coordinate to any other clause, and contains a **subject** (i.e. 'she') and a **predicate** (i.e. 'is very beautiful'). The predicate includes a **linking verbal form**, i.e. 'is'. The predicate of a clause makes a statement about **its subject**. □ **The main clause**, i.e. 'She is very beautiful.', operates at the highest level, i.e. Level 1a.

[1] the simple sentence		
Level 1a	She is very beautiful.	the main clause
Level 1b	↑ Clause 1	the coordinate clause
Level 2		the subordinate clause
Level 3		the subordinate phrase/word
[1] The simple sentence consists of only one main clause.		
She is very beautiful.		