

Grammar Exercises

Exercise 5.7 B

Practice based on Question 36 (Sample English tests: Grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1 – Levels 3-5)

Purpose of exercise: Main and subordinate clauses

Put a tick in each row to show whether the **main** clause or the **subordinate** clause is in bold.

1.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
The dragons, <u>who were feared throughout the world</u> , nested at the foot of a volcano.		
Whenever the volcano erupted, <u>the dragons showered in the molten lava</u> .		
Neville, <u>who is a brave dragon slayer</u> , camps out below the dragons' nests.		
<u>The dragons</u> , who were circling above the volcano one morning, <u>spotted Neville's camp and attacked</u> .		

2.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
<u>The evil scientist</u> , who lived in an old windmill, <u>was working on a powerful laser</u> .		
Tom and Kate, <u>as they were walking home from school</u> , went over to investigate.		
Funnily enough, they overheard him plotting. <u>While his back was turned</u> , they snuck in and called the cops.		
<u>So his evil plan looked likely to succeed</u> , until the police arrived!		

3.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
The ballet class, <u>which is normally reserved for hippos</u> , had its first elephant student!		
<u>The elephant put on his pink tutu</u> , which was covered in glitter.		
<u>The hippo teacher</u> , who had forty years of experience, <u>had never seen a dancing elephant</u> !		
The dance show, <u>which was at the end of term</u> , featured the elephant as the star!		

4.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
<u>Robert</u> , who had been a vampire for hundreds of years, <u>had never been ten-pin bowling before</u> .		
His vampire strength, <u>usually reserved for hunting</u> , came in very useful.		
He was having a fantastic time at the bowling alley, <u>until the neon lights came on</u> .		
<u>Unfortunately, Robert's pale white skin</u> , which was not normally noticeable, <u>lit up like a Christmas tree under the lights</u> !		

5.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
As the pirate captain told his crew, <u>mermaids can breathe underwater</u> .		
In actual fact, having no gills, they cannot breathe under the sea, <u>where they just hold their breath for hours at a time</u> .		
Baby mermaids have to learn not to breathe in <u>when they wake up</u> !		
<u>If the sea ever splutters</u> , it will be the sound of a mermaid's breath.		

6.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
The ghost and the skeleton, <u>who had lived together for many years</u> , argued about having a Halloween party.		
The ghost, <u>who had always been scared of humans</u> , only wanted to invite other ghosts.		
<u>The skeleton hadn't had a party with humans</u> , since he was sixteen in 1902!		
When the party was in full spring, <u>the skeleton won the argument and got to invite lots of humans</u> .		

7.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
<u>The blue unicorn was very tired</u> , because he had walked several miles.		
He was looking for the pink unicorn, <u>who was a friend of his</u> , and the lake she had found.		
When the blue unicorn got to the watering hole, <u>the pink unicorn was having dinner with a green unicorn</u> .		
The blue unicorn, <u>who had secretly fancied the pink unicorn for years</u> , was very jealous of the green unicorn.		

8.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
Sarah the mermaid, <u>who loved to sunbathe</u> , didn't like to swim too far from her rock.		
When the worst storm for fifty years was raging, <u>she was swept off her rock and taken out to sea!</u>		
She ended up, tired out, lying on a beach on a desert island <u>which had very few inhabitants</u> .		
<u>Jack couldn't believe his luck</u> when he found her the next morning!		

9.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
When she arrived at the castle, <u>Diana was shown into the Queen's bedchamber.</u>		
The Queen, <u>who was anxious for news of her daughter</u> , bustled into the room and sat down.		
<u>When she heard the news</u> , the queen burst into floods of tears.		
<u>The three-headed dragon</u> , who had eaten the queen's daughter, <u>burped noisily outside the window.</u>		

10.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
<u>Since the internet was invented</u> , werewolves love to search chat-rooms to find new friends.		
<u>Sandeep</u> , who has been a werewolf for two years, <u>prefers to be with friends on the full moon.</u>		
<u>When werewolves are in a group</u> , they can have a lot more fun, according to Sandeep.		
They don't just sit and howl at the moon, <u>which is due to loneliness</u> , but play board games instead!		