

There are different types of **subordinate clause** that you can use with main clauses to make complex sentences:

Noun clauses

A **noun clause** begins with the word **that** or **what**:

I think.

I think *that it will rain today*.

Adverbial clauses

An **adverbial clause** tells you something about how, why, when or where the action of the main clause happened:

He went swimming.

Having finished his homework, he went swimming.

Relative clauses

A **relative clause** tells you something about the subject of the main clause, rather than the action:

The pen has already run out.

The pen *which I bought yesterday* has already run out.

Comparative clauses

A **comparative clause** sets up a comparison. It often begins with the word **than**:

She can do sums better *than I can do them*.



What kind of subordinate clauses are the following:

1. **I will invite David although I don't like him.**
2. **Because my train was late, I missed the show.**
3. **What my friend said really upset me.**
4. **It upset me more than I had expected.**

➤ See also **Language Workshop** panel on **Sentence types**.