What is a clause?

A clause is a group of words that contain a subject (the noun or pronoun about which something is being said, usually the doer of the action) and a verb (a doing word).

An example of a clause is:
The fast, red squirrel darted up a tree.
The subject of this clause is the fast, red squirrel and the verb is 'darted'. This can also be called a simple sentence.

What is a main (or major) clause?

A main clause is a clause that contains a subject and an object. Main clauses make sense on their own.

'I like bananas.' is a simple sentence which is made up of a main clause.

Now try the questions below.
1a. Underline the verb and circle the nouns in the sentence below.

Michael hurt his knee in the playground.

1b. Underline the verb and circle the nouns in the sentence below.

Diane washed her hair in the bathroom.

2a. Punctuate the sentence below.

Linda read her favourite story

2b. Punctuate the sentence below.

The car moved very slowly

3a. Tick the main clause below that makes sense on its own.

A. the dog could
B. the dog barked
C. the dog was

3b. Tick the main clause below that makes sense on its own.

A. the boat sank
B. the boat flew
C. the boat’s mast

4a. True or false? The clause below is a main clause.

Our cow ran away.

4b. True or false? The clause below is a main clause.

The lights went off in the museum.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5a. Underline the verbs and circle the nouns in the sentence below.</th>
<th>5b. Underline the verbs and circle the nouns in the sentence below.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The professional footballers ran, jumped and skipped around the pitch.</td>
<td>The light outside switched on in the middle of the night because a fox ran by.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6a. Punctuate the sentence below.</th>
<th>6b. Punctuate the sentence below.</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>did the ginger cat climb over the wooden fence</td>
<td>i can’t believe that my teapot made twelve large cups of tea</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>7a. Tick the main clause below that makes sense on its own.</th>
<th>7b. Tick the main clause below that makes sense on its own.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. the chips tasted lovely</td>
<td>A. those clear river ran through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. those warm, curly chips taste</td>
<td>B. that winding river slowly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. the chips tasted the girl</td>
<td>C. the wide river ran down the hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>8a. True or false? The main clause in the sentence below is underlined.</th>
<th>8b. True or false? The main clause in the sentence below is underlined.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Sally pushed through the trees and saw a light over the road.</td>
<td>After the tree was cut down, nobody wanted to go to the park.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Question 9a
Underline the verbs and circle the nouns in the sentence below.

The little boy likes to take his dog for a long walk around the park on Sundays.

### Question 9b
Underline the verbs and circle the nouns in the sentence below.

We travelled all through the night on a small coach and arrived at the hotel before breakfast.

### Question 10a
Punctuate the sentence below.

in the holidays do you always go to the park with sarah and pete in before it gets too dark

### Question 10b
Punctuate the sentence below.

if you want to reach the top of the eiffel tower in paris don’t sleep in because the queues are huge

### Question 11a
Tick the main clause below that makes sense on its own.

A. the final decision made
B. the last-minute decision was hastily made
C. the difficult decision that she would make

### Question 11b
Tick the main clause below that makes sense on its own.

A. the large, green book spoke slowly
B. the white horse quickly escaped
C. the gentle horse sang clearly very

### Question 12a
True or false? The main clause in the sentence below is underlined.

My mother bought me a red bike when I turned 11 and it was amazing!

### Question 12b
True or false? The main clause in the sentence below is underlined.

Even though he knew it was wrong, Billy copied his best friend’s answers.
Answers

**Developing**
1a. Verb – hurt; nouns – Michael, knee, playground
2a. Linda read her favourite story.
3a. B
4a. True

**Expected**
5a. Verbs – ran, jumped, skipped; nouns – footballers, pitch
6a. Did the ginger cat climb over the wooden fence?
7a. A
8a. False

**Greater Depth**
9a. Verbs – likes, take; nouns – boy, dog, walk, park, Sundays
10a. In the holidays, do you always go to the park with Sarah and Pete before it gets too dark?
11a. B
12a. False

**Developing**
1b. Verb – washed; nouns – Diane, hair, bathroom
2b. The car moved very slowly.
3b. A
4b. True

**Expected**
5b. Verbs – switched, ran; nouns – light, night, fox
6b. I can’t believe that my teapot made twelve large cups of tea!
7b. C
8b. False

**Greater Depth**
9b. Verbs – travelled, arrived; nouns – night, coach, hotel, breakfast
10b. If you want to reach the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, don’t sleep in because the queues are huge!
11b. B
12b. True