

Diagramming The Complex Answer Key

1. She smiled because she was happy.

- Independent clause: She | smiled
- Dependent clause: she | was
- Predicate adjective: "happy" modifies "was"
- Subordinating conjunction because starts the dependent clause (on the dotted line that connects "smiled" to "was")

2. I stayed home since it was late.

- Independent clause: I | stayed
- Direct object: "home"
- Dependent clause: it | was
- Predicate adjective: "late" modifies "was"
- Subordinating conjunction since connects the two verbs ("stayed" ↔ "was") with a dotted line

3. We left early although it was raining.

- Independent clause: We | left
- Adverb "early" modifies "left"
- Dependent clause: it | was raining

- "was raining" functions as a verb phrase, with "raining" linked as a predicate verb form
- Subordinating conjunction although begins the dependent clause (on dotted line between "left" and "was")

4. He ran faster when the bell rang.

- Independent clause: He | ran
- Adverb "faster" modifies "ran"
- Dependent clause: bell | rang
- Article "the" modifies "bell"
- Subordinating conjunction when connects the dependent clause to the verb "ran"

5. They studied while their friends played.

- Independent clause: They | studied
- Dependent clause: friends | played
- Possessive "their" modifies "friends"
- Subordinating conjunction while links "studied" ↔ "played"

Teacher's Notes:

- The independent clause always sits on the main horizontal line.
- The dependent clause hangs below, joined with a dotted diagonal line to the verb of the independent clause.
- The subordinating conjunction is written on that dotted line.
- Complements (objects, predicate adjectives, predicate nominatives) and modifiers are diagrammed in their normal positions.