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Subordinate Clauses

Definition

A **subordinate clause** contains a subject and verb but cannot stand alone. These clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions or relative pronouns.

Example

Type	Example	Function
Adverbial	"Because it was raining"	Modifies verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs (answers when, where, why, how)
Adjectival	"Who arrived late"	Modifies nouns or pronouns (describes which one)
Nominal	"Whatever you decide"	Acts as a noun (subject, object, complement)

PART 1: Identify the Subordinate Clause

Underline the subordinate clause in each sentence about the Indus River Valley Civilization.

1. When archaeologists excavated Mohenjo-daro, they discovered a sophisticated urban planning system.
2. The ancient city planners, who designed the grid-like street system, showed remarkable engineering skills.
3. Because water management was crucial in the hot climate, the Indus people built advanced drainage systems.

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4. Harappa thrived until environmental changes affected the region.
5. The Great Bath of Mohenjo-daro, which many historians believe had ritual significance, demonstrates advanced water engineering.

PART 2: Multiple Choice

Choose the option that correctly identifies the type of subordinate clause used in each sentence.

1. Harappan engineers designed city streets that intersected at right angles.
a) Adverbial clause
b) Adjectival clause
c) Nominal clause
2. What amazes modern archaeologists is the standardized brick size used throughout the civilization.
a) Adverbial clause
b) Adjectival clause
c) Nominal clause
3. The Indus Valley people built elevated citadels where important buildings were located.
a) Adverbial clause
b) Adjectival clause
c) Nominal clause
4. Although the Indus script remains undeciphered, archaeologists can still understand much about their urban planning.
a) Adverbial clause
b) Adjectival clause
c) Nominal clause

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PART 3: Complete the Sentences

Complete each sentence by adding an appropriate subordinate clause.

1. The bricks used in Harappan cities were standardized

_____.

2. _____ featured covered drainage channels along every street.

3. Archaeologists believe the civilization declined

_____.

4. The wells and baths

_____ show advanced hydraulic knowledge.

5. _____ remains one of the earliest examples of urban sanitation systems.

PART 4: Create Your Own

Write original sentences about the Indus Valley urban planning using the types of subordinate clauses specified.

1. Adjectival clause (beginning with "which"):

2. Adverbial clause (beginning with "because"):

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3. Nominal clause (beginning with "what"):

4. Adverbial clause (beginning with "although"):

5. Adjectival clause (beginning with "where"):

PART 5: Combine Sentences

Combine each pair of sentences by turning one into a subordinate clause.

1. Mohenjo-daro had a population of about 40,000 people.
It is one of the largest ancient Indus cities.

2. The city streets were laid out in a grid pattern. This
pattern allowed for efficient movement.

3. The Indus people created a sewage system. The
sewage system was advanced for its time.

4. The houses were built with bricks. The bricks were
uniform in size.

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Subordinate Clauses – Answer Key

PART 1: Identify the Subordinate Clause

1. When archaeologists excavated Mohenjo-daro
2. who designed the grid-like street system
3. Because water management was crucial in the hot climate
4. until environmental changes affected the region
5. which many historians believe had ritual significance

PART 2: Multiple Choice

1. b) Adjectival clause
2. c) Nominal clause
3. b) Adjectival clause
4. a) Adverbial clause

PART 3: Complete the Sentences

Possible answers (other reasonable answers may be acceptable):

1. The bricks used in Harappan cities were standardized so that they could be used interchangeably.
2. The cities that were excavated in the 1920s featured covered drainage channels along every street.
3. Archaeologists believe the civilization declined when the river patterns changed dramatically.
4. The wells and baths that were found throughout the cities show advanced hydraulic knowledge.
5. The drainage system that archaeologists discovered in Mohenjo-daro remains one of the earliest examples of urban sanitation systems.

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Subordinate Clauses – Answer Key

PART 4: Create Your Own

Sample answers (student answers will vary):

1. The Great Bath, which was located in the citadel area, may have been used for religious purification rituals.
2. Because flood control was essential for survival, Harappan engineers built sophisticated water management systems.
3. What archaeologists find most impressive is the consistent city planning across multiple Indus Valley sites.
4. Although the Indus script has not been decoded, the seals provide evidence of administrative organization.
5. The elevated platforms where public buildings stood protected important structures from seasonal flooding.

PART 5: Combine Sentences

Possible answers (other reasonable answers may be acceptable):

1. Mohenjo-daro, which is one of the largest ancient Indus cities, had a population of about 40,000 people.
2. The city streets were laid out in a grid pattern that allowed for efficient movement.
3. The Indus people created a sewage system which was advanced for its time.
4. The houses were built with bricks that were uniform in size.