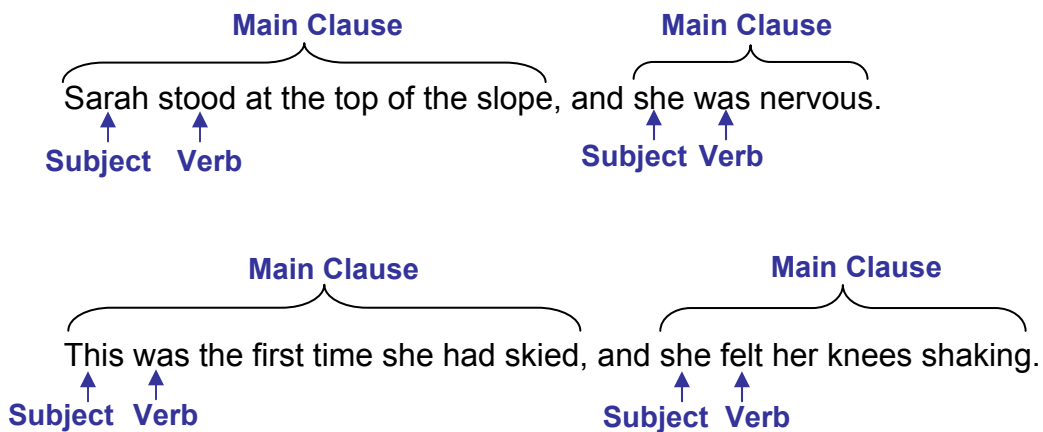


To understand sentence structure, you first need to understand what makes a complete sentence. A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. In general, a sentence needs a **subject** (noun or pronoun) and a **predicate** (verb). But not all groups of words with subjects and predicates are sentences.

A **clause** is a group of words that has a subject and a predicate and is used in a sentence. A **main**, or **independent**, clause is a clause that can stand alone as a sentence.

Every sentence needs to have at least one main clause. Some sentences have more than one main clause. Read the sentences below. In each of the examples, both clauses could stand alone, so both clauses are main clauses.



The subject and verb of a main clause may be **compound**. This means that there may be more than one noun and more than one verb.

