Clause islands: answers and notes

What your child practised: subject, verb and object, and spotting independent clauses (Year 6).

Page 1 · Warm up

Mia (S) kicked (V) the ball (O).
The cat (S) ate (V) my sandwich (O).

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. The subject does the action; the object has it done to it.

Page 2 · A. S, V, O

1. Leo · painted · [the fence]
2. The wind · shook · [the windows]
3. My sister · reads · [comics]
4. Our class · planted · [three trees]

Page 2 · B. Stand alone?

Tick: **The river flooded.** · **Sam laughed.** · **The owl hooted loudly.** The others start with because, when or if.

Page 3 · C. Where does it end?

1. The sun came out **/** we went to the beach.
2. Ava found a shell **/** it was shaped like a spiral.
3. The bus was late **/** Leo missed the start of the film.

Page 3 · D. Swap them

1. **The cat chased the dog.** Now the cat is doing the chasing.
2. **The ball caught the goalkeeper.** Now the ball does the catching, which sounds silly!

Challenge: No. It has a subject and a verb, but "because" makes it depend on another clause, so it can't stand alone. E.g. **We went home because the shop was closed.**

Watch out for

- **Because/when/if clauses written as sentences.** Read it aloud and ask: "Does it leave you waiting for more?"
- **Subject and object swapped.** Ask "Who's doing it?" for the subject, "What's it done to?" for the object.
- **Missing the boundary** between two clauses. Find each verb, then ask who is doing it: each new subject + verb is a new clause.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Finish my clause:** say "Because it was snowing…"; your child adds an independent clause to finish it.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2 joins two independent clauses with a semi-colon.