

Language Awareness for Key Stage 3

16: Complex Sentences — Part I

Activity 1:

Take a minute to look at these examples:

- Maria sprach mit Hans, der seine Brieftasche verloren hatte
'Mary spoke with John, who had lost his wallet'
- Maria sprach mit Hans, dessen Brieftasche verloren war
'Mary spoke with John, whose wallet was lost'
- Maria sprach mit Hans, dem sie gerade begegnet war
'Mary spoke with John, whom she had just met'
- Hans sprach mit Maria, die ihre Brieftasche verloren hatte
'John spoke with Mary, who had lost her wallet'
- Hans sprach mit Maria, deren Brieftasche verloren war
'John spoke with Mary, whose wallet was lost'
- Hans sprach mit Maria, der er gerade begegnet war
'John spoke with Mary, whom he had just met'

What do you notice about German word order? Do you notice any other differences between German and English?

Notes:

Activity 2:

Take some time and try to make a list of all the other subordinating conjunctions you can find. Do not include coordinating conjunctions (*and, or, but*, etc.). If you're not sure whether a word is right or not, you can consult a dictionary.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Activity 3:

Many sentences with coordinating conjunctions (*and, or, but*, etc.) are symmetrical. You can reverse the two halves without changing the meaning. (e.g. *John is Irish and Christina is Greek/Christina is Greek and John is Irish*)

- Can you think of any sentences with a coordinating conjunction that are not symmetrical?

- Can you think of any sentences with a subordinating conjunction that are symmetrical?
