

Clauses exercise

Find out the principal clause and subordinate clause or clauses in the following sentences.

1. James spoke as though he were a born orator.
2. They felt that the farmer must be put to death.
3. When at last he returned to the village, the people told him that his mother had died.
4. The newspaper will tell us tomorrow what the world does today.
5. The few books that were produced in the Middle Ages were written by hand.
6. When the world was young, artists drew their pictures on stone.
7. I could not tolerate what he said because it was quite insulting.

Answers

1. Principal clause - James spoke; subordinate adverb clause - as though he were a born actor
2. Principal clause - they felt; subordinate noun clause - that the farmer must be put to death
3. Principal clause - the people told him; subordinate adverb clause - when at last he returned to the village; subordinate noun clause - that his mother had died
4. Principal clause - the newspaper will tell us tomorrow; subordinate noun clause - what the world does today
5. Principal clause - the few books were written by hand; subordinate adjective clause - that were produced in the Middle Ages

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6. Principal clause - artists drew their pictures on stone; subordinate adverb clause - when the world was young

7. Principal clause - I could not tolerate; subordinate noun clause - what he said; subordinate adverb clause - because it was very insulting