Clauses and Conjunctions

until  since  while
What do we remember about clauses?

**Clauses** are groups of words with an *active verb*; they make sense.

- **She looked around.**
- **Lizzie was in darkness.**
- **She could see nothing.**

These are all **clauses** because they have an *active verb* and they make sense.

They are called **single-clause** sentences because one clause makes up the entire sentence.

They can stand alone so they are **main clauses** (also called **independent** clauses).
Independent clauses can be linked by and, or, but.

*She looked around but she could see nothing.*

*Lizzie was in darkness and she could see nothing.*

They are called multi-clause sentences because the sentence is made up of more than one clause.

The conjunctions and, or and but are co-ordinating conjunctions.

They link independent clauses with equal importance to the meaning of the sentence.
Some sentences are made up of more than one clause.

*Choose two independent clauses to link using *and*, *or*, *but*.

| Seals love fish. | They can get quite plump at certain times of the year. |
| Seals enjoy playing in the icy sea. | They tend to huddle together in the cold. |
| Penguins are very clever. | They form a solid circle with their backs to the cold. |
| Penguin parents can take turns to keep the egg warm. | They can decide that one of them catches the fish. |

**Ideas**

Seals love fish *and* they can get quite plump at certain times of the year.

Seals enjoy playing in the icy sea *but* they tend to huddle together in the cold.

Penguins are very clever *and* they form a solid circle with their backs to the cold.

Penguin parents can take turns to keep the egg warm *or* they can decide that one of them catches the fish.
Subordinating Conjunctions

Some **conjunctions** add extra information to an **independent clause**.

Conjunctions can give meaning to the links, to do with...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>time</th>
<th>place</th>
<th>cause</th>
<th>condition</th>
<th>contrast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>when while since as before after until</td>
<td>where wherever</td>
<td>because as since</td>
<td>if unless even if</td>
<td>although though whereas while</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subordinating conjunctions link main clauses to subordinate clauses.

*Lizzie was in darkness although she could sense that someone else was there.*

*She could see nothing even if she opened her eyes wide.*

*When she heard a sound, she looked around nervously.*

These are still called *multi-clause* sentences because the sentence is made up of more than one clause.

These sentences are made up of a *main clause* (which carries the most important information) and...

...a *subordinate clause* which adds to the meaning of the main clause but cannot stand alone.
Which is the **main clause** and **subordinate clause** in each of these multi-clause sentences?

Without getting out of her sleeping bag, she could see the seals.

They still looked pretty sleepy, although it was hard to tell.

While lying there thinking of not much, she heard the sound of a helicopter.

When she was sure what it was, Lizzie got out of her sleeping bag.

She wanted to be up when the helicopter landed.

Before the noise had died down, she was outside and running toward it.
Which is the **main clause** and **subordinate clause** in each of these multi-clause sentences?

Without getting out of her sleeping bag, _she could see the seals._

_They still looked pretty sleepy although it was hard to tell._

_While lying there thinking of not much, she heard the sound of a helicopter._

_When she was sure what it was, Lizzie got out of her sleeping bag._

_She wanted to be up when the helicopter landed._

_Before the noise had died down, she was up and running toward it._
Why might we use multi-clause sentences?
Extending and linking clauses with conjunctions helps us to:

• add extra detail to a sentence
• play with sentence length for impact
• vary the rhythm of our writing to help it flow
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