



Main and subordinate clauses

The **MAIN** clause in a sentence contains the main idea or action:

Lucy went to bed

The **SUBORDINATE** clause in a sentence contains extra information or detail. A subordinate clause usually begins with a conjunction:

because she was tired

We can put these together in different ways to make a **COMPLEX** sentence:

Lucy went to bed because she was tired.

Because she was tired, Lucy went to bed.

Copy these sentences and underline the **MAIN** clause in each one:
(Remember a main clause will make sense on its own.)

1. While looking through the window, Sophie saw the BFG.
2. Tom saw the maid when she came through the door.
3. Grandma said I could go out to play if I finished my homework.
4. Although it was late, Sean watched the film.
5. Mr. Smith bought the paper when he was on the train

Copy these sentences and underline the **SUBORDINATE** clause in each one:
(Remember a subordinate clause usually starts with a conjunction.)

1. When he had finished washing the dishes, Lee sat down.
2. She felt sad whenever she saw the picture.
3. If you eat all your dinner, you can have an ice cream.
4. Steven was brushing his teeth while his sister was brushing her hair.
5. Ryan got a prize although he was last in the race.