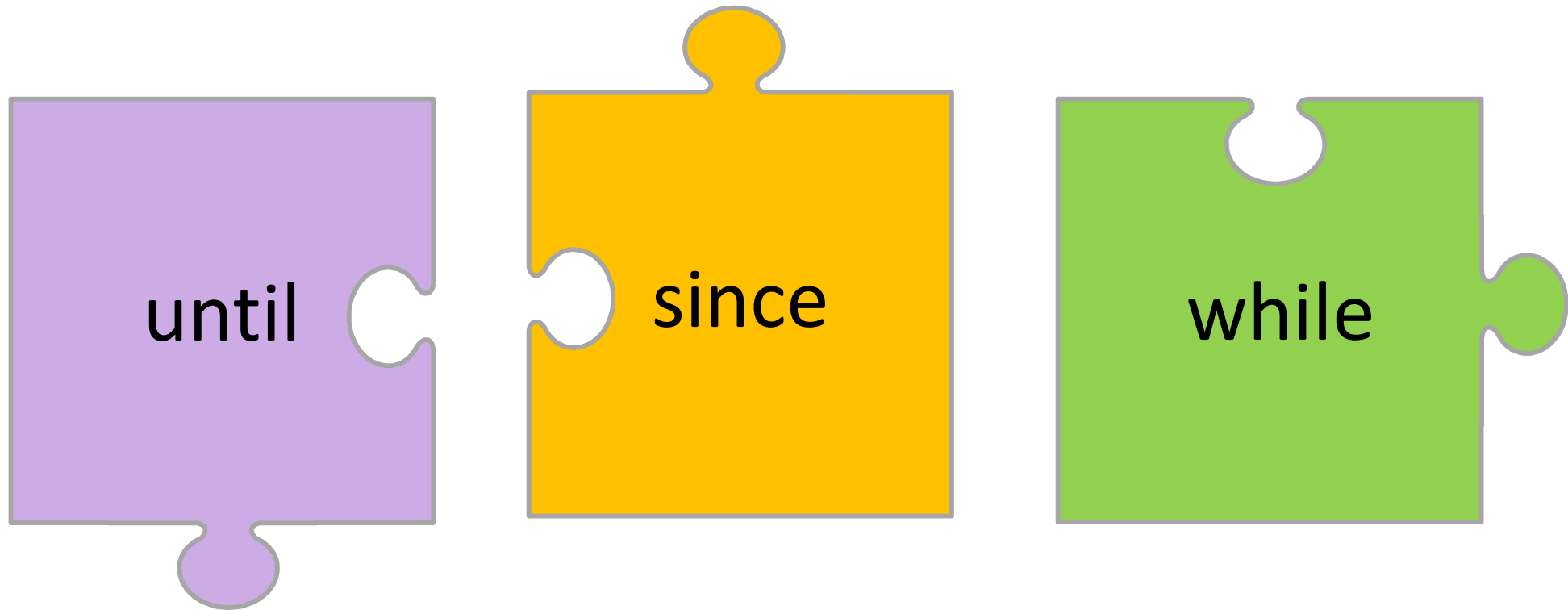


# Clauses and Conjunctions



# What do we remember about clauses?

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

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



*She **looked** around.*

*Lizzie **was** in darkness.*

*She could **see** nothing.*

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...

## time

when  
while  
since  
as  
before  
after  
until

## place

where  
wherever

## cause

because  
as  
since

## condition

if  
unless  
even if

## contrast

although  
though  
whereas  
while





**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.*

ANSWER

**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.*

ANSWER



## 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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