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## Using complex sentences to add meaning

Homer watched Jamie in amazement.

Using a connective before:

**As** the pizza burst into flames,  
Homer watched Jamie in amazement.

Using a connective after:

Homer watched Jamie in amazement  
**because** he was giggling.



1. The hobbit jumped onto the troll's back.
2. Tasha ran along the roof.
3. Freddie picked up the banana.
4. It rained.
5. It was a spitting cobra.
6. They carried on to the camp.
7. The captain ran to the space ship.
8. Elephants have long memories.
9. Scorpions sting.
10. Exercise is good for you.

as,  
as soon as,  
after,  
before,  
although,  
immediately,  
when,  
whenever,  
while,  
so,  
but,  
because,  
whenever,  
despite,  
even though,  
however,  
until, since,  
whereas,  
unless

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**Objective**

To understand how to construct a complex sentence by using a connective.

**Teaching point**

You can add extra information onto a simple sentence by using a connective either before or after the sentence – leaving you with a main and subordinate clause.

**What you will need**

Copymaster 1 as an OHT or on IWB; mini-whiteboards and pens.

**Activity**

- Use the OHT to show the first sentence and the box of connectives. Demonstrate how the basic sentence could have further detail added to it by using a subordinate clause either before or after the main clause, e.g.

**Main clause:** Bill gripped the side of the boat.

**Before:** As the shark got nearer, Bill gripped the side of the boat.

**After:** Bill gripped the side of the boat because he was afraid.

- The class take each sentence in turn and use a connective to create a subordinate clause either before or after the main clause.
- Check that, where the subordinate clause precedes the main clause, it is followed by a comma, e.g.

Although the dog had bitten him, Bob grinned.

**Challenge**

Create a sentence that uses a subordinate clause before and after the main clause. Think about where the commas should go. For instance, the basic sentence, 'The doctor grabbed the table,' could have a chunk added on before and after:

As the doctor grabbed the table, he fell over **even though** he was wearing magnetic boots.

**What has been learned**

Subordinate clauses can help writers add in extra information or detail.