Main and Subordinate Clauses

A **main** or **independent** clause can stand on its own as a sentence. A **subordinate** or **dependent** clause cannot stand on its own as a sentence.

Example: Main: I went to the store.
Subordinate: Because I went to the store.

Look at the following sentences. Label them M for main clause or S for subordinate clause. If the sentence is a subordinate clause, add a main clause to turn it into a complete sentence.

**S** 1. Although it was raining.

*Although it was raining, the sun was still out.*

2. Because we played baseball.

3. The cat liked to chase mice.

4. Since he was hungry.

5. When it is cold outside.

6. If you get an A on the test.

7. The baby slept soundly.

8. As the roller coaster went down the hill.

9. While eating lunch.

10. It was a hard test.
Main and Subordinate Clauses Answer Key

S  1. Although it was raining.
   Although it was raining, the sun was still out.

S  2. Because we played baseball.
   We were late for dinner because we played baseball.

M  3. The cat liked to chase mice.

S  4. Since he was hungry.
   Since he was hungry I gave him my sandwich.

S  5. When it is cold outside.
   We like to go sledding when it is cold outside.

S  6. If you get an A on the test.
   If you get an A on the test Mom will give you a treat.

M  7. The baby slept soundly.

S  8. As the roller coaster went down the hill.
   As the roller coaster went down the hill it traveled fast.

S  9. While eating lunch.
   I watched the bees in the garden while eating lunch.

M 10. It was a hard test.