

## Dependent Clauses and Complex Sentences



Let us look at another possibility.

What if two clauses are not joined by a coordinating conjunction but by a **subordinating** conjunction (*if, as, since, when, because, etc.*)?

The mayor spoke **when** he was introduced.

The first clause, *The mayor spoke*, makes sense by itself, but the second clause does not: *when he was introduced*.

A clause that makes sense is called *independent*, and a clause that does not, as when it begins with a subordinating conjunction, is called *dependent*.

When one clause is dependent, we call the sentence *complex*.