KS3 English Language Writing – Whodunnit?
Quickfire Subordinate Clauses

Subordinate clauses are bits of extra information in a sentence that could not be sentences on their own. They can be found in different places in a sentence, and are often separated by commas. Where a subordinate clause is placed can affect the emphasis of the sentence.

In the following example, 'whistling softly' is a subordinate clause.

- **Whistling softly**, Tom walked through the door.
- Tom walked through the door while **whistling softly**.
- Tom walked, **whistling softly**, through the door.

In each of these sentences, the whistling has a different importance. In one of the sentences, a **subordinating conjunction** has been used. A subordinating conjunction can be used to join a subordinate clause to a main clause. Examples of subordinating conjunctions are:

if **while** **although** **because** **since** **after** **until**

Can you rearrange the subordinate clauses in these complex sentences to give a different emphasis to the sentence? In some instances, you may want to add a subordinating conjunction.

Hurrying through the rain, she arrived at the station.

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The alarm sounded and the people poured through the doors, screaming and shouting.

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The cat, which had only just come home, escaped through the cat flap.

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