Using Subordinate Clauses

In a compound sentence, both independent clauses are equally important. In a complex sentence, the independent clause contains the most important main idea, and the subordinate clause contains less important, or extra, information.

DIRECTIONS: Read each set of sentences below. Create a complex sentence that will signal to the reader that the first sentence given is the most important.

EXAMPLE: The crocodile got a sunburn. He was on vacation.
While on vacation, the crocodile got a sunburn.

1. Ellen won the science fair. Ellen has a very good imagination.

2. The movie is boring. It is about some war that took place a long time ago.

3. The cats are on the back of the sofa. It is their favorite spot.

4. That man almost caused an accident. He pulled out in front of us.

5. Jim is a grouch. Jim doesn’t get enough sleep these days.