

Types of Subordinate Clauses

1. **Purpose clauses** A purpose clause, a subordinate clause which defines the purpose or goal of the action expressed in the main clause. IT ANSWERS THE QUESTION “WHY” or “FOR WHAT PURPOSE”
In English, purpose clauses are introduced by *so that*, *in order that* (finite clauses), *in order to*, *so as to*, *to* (infinitival clauses):

We lit the fire so that we could be warm.
He came early in order to get ready.
I went to London to visit the Queen.

In Polish, purpose clauses are introduced by *żeby* followed by an infinitive:

Idę tam, żeby robić zakupy.
Studiuje, żeby się nie nudzić.
Pan Orłowski jest w biurze, żeby pracować.
Śpieszę się, żeby nie być spóźniona.
Jestem zbyt zajęta, żeby robić zakupy.
Żeby być dobrym studentem, trzeba dużo się uczyć.

2. **Complement clauses** function as objects of verbs in the main clause, they complete the meaning of the main verb. THEY MOST OFTEN ANSWER THE QUESTION “WHAT”.

In English, complement clauses are introduced by *that* (finite clauses) or *to* (infinitival clauses):

I want an apple. (*apple* object of *want*)
I want to go. (*to go* object of *want*).
I know that I am late.

Some verbs require finite complement clauses (*know*), others infinitival ones (*want*).

In Polish, finite complement clauses are introduced by *że* 'that', infinitival complement clauses do not have a clause introducer:

Wiem, że jestem spóźniona.
Cieszę się, że się nie nudzisz.
Muszę się uczyć.
Chciałabym pójść z tobą.

Note: the type of complement clause varies from verb to verb (c.f. *want* vs. *know*) and from language to language. Though there is a lot of overlap, the fact that an English verb requires a certain complement clause, does not mean that its Polish equivalent will require the same type of complement clause! (e.g. *be surprised* may take an infinitival complement in English, but *dziwić się* takes a *że* complement in Polish)

Area of possible confusion: in English both purpose clauses and complement clauses can be introduced by *to*. In Polish, purpose clauses are ALWAYS introduced by *żeby* (*żeby* is NOT optional), infinitival complement clauses have no introducer. When in doubt think about the meaning: is the infinitival clause a purpose clause (answers the question **why**)? If so, use *żeby*. If not, don't.

Quick test. Translate into Polish: He goes there to study. I must hurry. I wouldn't like to live in Los Angeles. Are you too tired to have a good time? I must work to live.