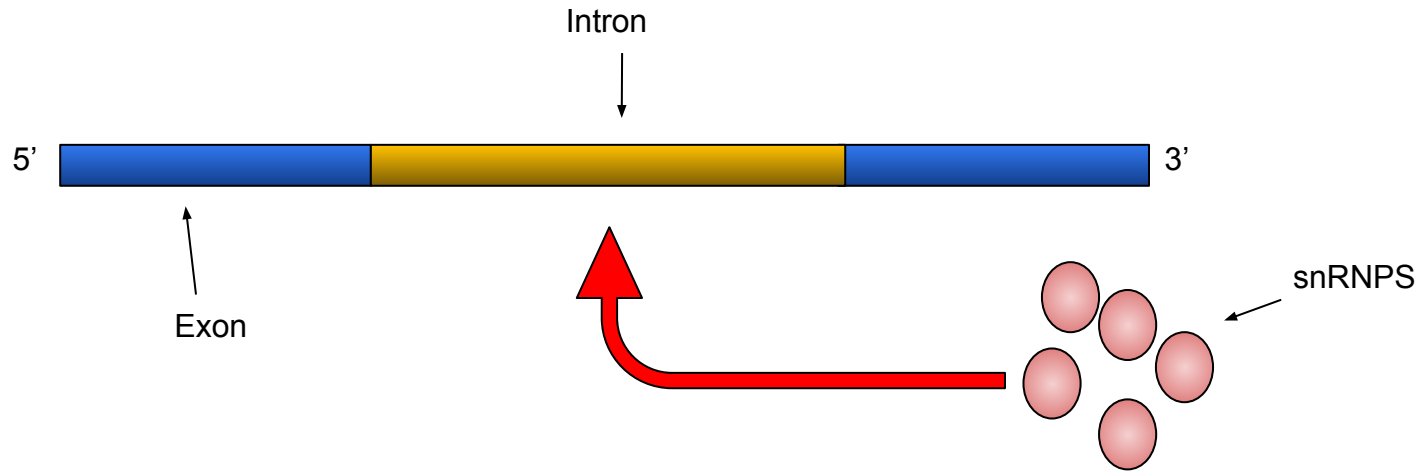
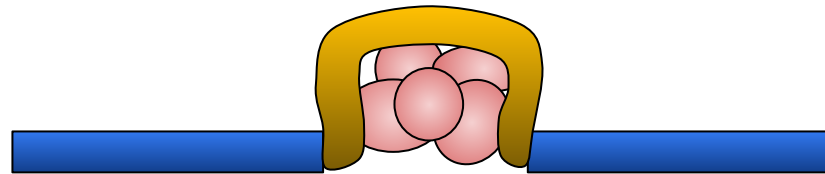


Step 1.
A group of five snRNPS's, or ribonucleoproteins, are needed to bind to the intron of pre-mRNA and remove it to leave only the exons.



Step 2.
The snRNP's bind to the intron and cause it to fold into bring the 5' and 3' ends of the intron closer together, making a loop. The ends of the exons also move closer together to eventually join together.



Step 3.
The intron detaches and the splice sites connect to make a mature mRNA. The introns were previously thought to be "junk" afterwards but most are used in other processes. The snRNP's detach from the intron and are used for more splicing.

