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Three-dimensional structure of a yeast spliceosome. In eukaryotes, genetic information stored in DNA is transcribed into precursor messenger RNA (pre-mRNA), which contains protein-coding exons interspersed with noncoding introns. The splicing of pre-mRNA, which entails removal of introns and covalent linkage of exons, is mediated by a multicomponent ribonucleoprotein complex—the spliceosome. See pages 1182 and 1191.

Illustration: C. Bickel/Science; structure based on the cryo-EM map of a yeast spliceosome (EMDB ID EMD-6413)
Editor's Summary

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