

## Aim: I can understand and identify conjunctions

### Co-ordinating conjunctions

Co-ordinating conjunctions join sentence elements that are the same. They can join words, phrases and clauses. There are only seven of these, and they are easy to memorise if you use the acronym FANBOYS.

for and nor but or yet so

Write a sentence of your own using each of the conjunctions above.

### Subordinating conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions are conjunctions that join dependent clauses to independent clauses.

I will eat broccoli after I eat this cookie.

There are many subordinating conjunctions, so keep in mind that this list does not include all of them!

A after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though

B because, before, by the time

E even if, even though

I if, in order that, in case

L lest

O once, only if

P provided that

S since, so that

T than, that, though, till

U unless, until

W when, whenever, where, wherever, while, whilst

**Circle all the conjunctions in the sentences below.** Write whether they are subordinating or co-ordinating conjunctions.

Once Harry had checked the weather forecast, he set off on his walk because he knew it was not going to rain.

Whilst climbing up the mountain, he was unaware of the dangers ahead. Whilst he was walking, he sipped his drink slowly.

He needed to turn back immediately since a storm was coming.

**Underline the conjunction in the sentences below.** Write next to the sentence (in brackets), whether the conjunction is a subordinating conjunction or a co-ordinating conjunction.

I like ice-skating and roller-skating.

Jamie likes roller-skating, but he has never tried ice-skating.

Jamie will go ice-skating if I go with him.

Challenge:

Write 10 of your own interesting and imaginative sentences using conjunctions. Underline the conjunction in each sentence.

Explanations:

[http://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/subordinating\\_conjunctions.htm](http://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/subordinating_conjunctions.htm)

## What Are Subordinating Conjunctions? (with Examples)

A subordinating conjunction is used to link a subordinate clause (also known as a dependent clause) to the main clause (also known as an independent clause).

In each example below, the main clause is in bold, and the subordinating conjunction is shaded.

- **She left early** because Mike arrived with his new girlfriend.
- **Keep your hand on the wound** until the nurse asks you to take it off.

## A List of Common Subordinating Conjunctions

Here is a list of common subordinating conjunctions:

after	in order that	though
although	in the event that	until
as	just in case	when
as soon as	now that	whenever
because	once	where
before	only if	whereas
by the time	provided that	wherever
even if	rather than	whether
even though	since	whether or not
every time	so that	while
if	than	why
in case	that	

## The Function of a Subordinating Conjunction

When a sentence has an independent clause (main clause) and at least one dependent clause, it is known as a complex sentence. In a complex sentence, the role of the subordinating conjunction and the dependent clause is to establish a time, a place, a reason, a condition, a concession, or a comparison for the main clause. The

subordinating conjunction provides the bridge between the main clause and the dependent clause.

## Examples of Subordinating Conjunctions

Below are some common subordinating conjunctions in sentences:

Subordinating Conjunction	Category	Example
as	reason	As it's raining, I'm staying in.
because	reason	I'm staying in because it's raining.
in order that	reason	In order that I don't miss the postman, I'm staying in.
since	reason	Since you're going out, I'm staying in.
so that	reason	I'm staying in so that I don't miss the postman.
although	concession and comparison	I'm staying in although I'd rather go out.
as	concession and comparison	I'm staying in as you should.
even though	concession and comparison	I'm staying in even though the sun is out.
just as	concession and comparison	I'm staying in just as you should.
though	concession and comparison	I'm staying in though I wish I weren't.
whereas	concession and comparison	I'm staying in whereas you are going out.
while	concession and comparison	I'm staying in while you are going out.
even if	condition	Even if it rains, I'm going out.
if	condition	If it rains, I'm staying in.
in case	condition	I'm staying in in case it rains.
provided that	condition	Provided it doesn't rain, I'm going out.
unless	condition	I'm going out unless it rains.
where	place	I fish where the waves start to form.
wherever	place	I will live wherever the weather is good.

after	time	I'm going out after the football.
as soon as	time	I'm going out as soon as the football has finished.
as long as	time	I'm staying out as long as the weather stays good.
before	time	I'm going out before the football.
once	time	I'm going out once the football has finished.
till	time	I'm staying out till the weather turns bad.
until	time	I'm staying out until the weather turns bad.
when	time	I'm going out when the weather improves.
whenever	time	I go out whenever the weather is good.
while	time	I'll stay out while the weather is good.

## Subordinating Conjunctions and Commas

When a subordinate clause starts a sentence, it is normal to separate it from the main clause with a comma. For example:

- If you shoot at mimes, should you use a silencer? (Steven Wright)

When a subordinate clause ends a sentence, you should drop the comma.

- Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life. (Herbert Henry Asquith, 1852–1928)

A subordinate clause usually gives essential information for the main clause. Therefore, it should not be separated from it with a comma. However, when a subordinate clause is at the start of a sentence, a comma is used because it helps readers by letting them know where the main clause starts.

## Exceptions to the Comma Rule

There are a couple of quirks with this ruling:

**Quirk 1: You Can Use a Comma for a Deliberate Pause**

You should try to resist the temptation to use a comma before a subordinating conjunction. However, if a pause is needed for effect, a comma can be used before the subordinating conjunction. For example:

- **Money is better than poverty,** if only for financial reasons. (Woody Allen)

#### Quirk 2: You Can Use a Comma before *Because* If the Main Clause is a Negative idea

To eliminate ambiguity, it is a good practice to use a comma before *because* if the main clause expresses a negative idea. For example:

- **I am not going,** because it's raining.

(This means: As it is raining, I am not going. There is no ambiguity. The comma is acceptable.)

- **I am not going** because it's raining.

(Without the comma, this could mean: The rain is not the reason I am not going. The example below expands on the idea.)

- **I am not going** because it's raining. **I am not going** because I dislike the host.

The comma helps to separate the reason offered by the "because" clause from the word *not*.