



Conjunctions

Name:

Grade 8 CS/.....

Date.....

What Is a Coordinating Conjunction?

A coordinating conjunction is a word that joins two elements of equal grammatical rank and syntactic importance. They can join two verbs, two nouns, two adjectives, two phrases, or two independent clauses. The seven coordinating conjunctions are **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so**.

The best way to remember the seven coordinating conjunctions is by using the acronym **FANBOYS**.

For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So.

What is a subordinating conjunction?

A conjunction is a connecting word or phrase; a subordinating conjunction is a connecting word or phrase that introduces a dependent clause and joins it to a main clause or independent clause. Similarly, a coordinating conjunction sets up an equal partnership between the two clauses. When a subordinating conjunction is linked to a dependent clause, the unit is called a subordinate clause.

Subordinating Conjunctions

- Subordinating conjunctions can be found in sentences containing two clauses: an **independent** or main clause and a **dependent** clause.
- They must come at the beginning of a **dependent clause**.



- Subordinators help lend meaning to a sentence by linking two ideas. **Time, concession, comparison, cause, condition, and place** are the types of subordinating conjunctions, categorized by meaning.
- In most sentences, as long as the subordinating conjunction precedes the dependent clause, clause order does not matter.

Subordinating conjunctions are also known as subordinators, subordinate conjunctions, and complementizers. Many subordinators are single words such as *because, before, and when*, but some subordinating conjunctions consist of more than one word such as *even though, as long as, and except that*.

Subordinating conjunctions are separated into categories by meaning and can serve a few different purposes for a sentence.

Time

Time-related conjunctions establish a period when the main clause will be or was performed. These include *after, as soon as, as long as, before, once, still, until, when, whenever, and while*. For example, "I will do the dishes *after* everyone has gone home" might be stated by a hostess who prefers to enjoy her guests' company while they are there.

Concession

Concession conjunctions help to redefine the main clause by providing additional context regarding conditions of delivery. Concession conjunctions highlight an action that took place in spite of an obstacle or hindrance and they include *although, as though, and even though*. An example would be, "Eliza wrote the Higgins report even though it was assigned to Colonel Pickering."

Comparison

Similarly, comparison conjunctions—which include *just as*, *though*, *whereas*, *in contrast to*, and *while*—help to establish correlations by providing context for comparison. "Ellen vlogged about the results of the political meeting, *in contrast to* her arch-enemy who merely blogged."

Cause

Cause conjunctions illuminate the reason(s) that the activities of a main clause were performed and are commonly engineered using *as*, *because*, *in order that*, *since*, and *so that*. "Grant dreamed about cheese *because* he had eaten so much of it the night before."

Condition

Condition conjunctions introduce rules under which a main clause performs. These are indicated by *even if*, *if*, *in case*, *provided that*, and *unless*. "If he's going to be there, I'm not going to the party." Often, subordinate clauses come first in conditional sentences but they are still dependent on the main clause and cannot exist outside of it.

Place

Place conjunctions, which determine where activities might occur, include *where*, *wherever*, and *whereas*. "I will place my conjunction in the sentence *wherever* I please."

Examples of Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions are not hard to find when you know where to look for them. Use these quotes to get started.

- "Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humor, reserve, and caprice, *that* the experience of three-and-twenty years had been

insufficient to make his wife understand his character." -Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

- "I am always doing that which I cannot do, *in order that* I may learn how to do it." -Pablo Picasso
- "*If* you want to change the world, start with yourself." -Mahatma Gahndi
- "*When* life gives you lemons, make lemonade." -Anonymous

Practice Exercises

The following pairs of sentences can be combined into one complex unit using subordinating conjunctions. Try adding various conjunctions and conjunctive phrases to join the sentences until you find the best fit. Remember: for most sentences, sentence order does not matter (as long as the subordinating conjunction precedes the dependent clause).

- I will help the man, because he deserves it.
- Mary came up as we were talking about her.
- I admire Mr. Brown, even though he is my enemy.
- I came as you sent for me.
- Evelyn will come to school, because she is able.
- He knows he is wrong, but he will not admit it.
- The man is rich, but he is unhappy.
- The Mexican War came on, when Polk was president.
- I shall come tomorrow, because you sent for me.
- You wish to be believed, so You must tell the truth.

- The dog bites, and he ought to be muzzled.
- It would be foolish to set out, because it is raining.
- Call me at my office, if You happen to be in town.
- The cat ran up a tree, because she was chased by a dog.
- The sun shines brightly, but It is very cold.



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