

Joining Sentences with Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions are sentence-joining words that, like coordinating conjunctions, help us show a variety of relationships between ideas. Listed below are the subordinating conjunctions we use most often:

Subordinator	Logical Relationship	Example
although, though, even though, while, whereas	contrast	<u>Although</u> I am senior, I have 50 more units to complete.
because, since	effect/cause	College is taking longer to Complete <u>because</u> I have to work full-time too.
if	condition	I can go to the party <u>if</u> I finish my homework.
unless	condition	I cannot go to the party <u>unless</u> I finish my homework. (<i>Unless I finish means if I don't finish.</i>)
before, after, when, whenever, Until, as soon as	time	<u>After</u> I finish my homework, I'll go to the party.

Punctuation:

Adding a subordinating conjunction in front of a sentence turns the sentence into a dependent clause. If a dependent clause comes **before** a sentence (independent clause), you must place a comma between the two clauses. If the dependent clause comes **after** a sentence (independent clause), then a comma is not used:

<u>Because</u> she purchased the tires in bulk, she got a discount.	(dependent clause) (independent clause)
She got a discount <u>because</u> she purchased the tires in bulk.	(independent clause) (dependent clause)

Exercise 1

Directions: Join the following pairs of sentences using subordinating conjunctions. Turn the underlined sentence into the dependent clause. The logical relationship is provided in brackets to the right.

Example: Some birds prey on cockroaches.
Humans are their biggest enemies. *[contrast]*

Solution: Although some birds prey on cockroaches, humans are their biggest enemies.

1. Cockroaches are a health threat to humans.
They carry bacteria like staph. *[effect/cause]*
2. Humans try to eliminate the cockroaches.
Cockroaches are extremely successful at surviving. *[contrast]*
3. Cockroaches are smaller than humans.
They have extremely fast responses and sensitive receptors. *[contrast]*
4. There is no food.
Cockroaches will live on glue and paper. *[condition]*
5. They cannot find glue or paper.
They can live off of body stores for three months. *[condition]*
6. Cockroaches are really desperate for food.
They will turn into cannibals. *[condition]*
7. Cockroaches must have their antennae undamaged.
They can live well without the use of their eyes. *[contrast]*
8. Many believe that cockroaches could survive a nuclear war.
Roaches can withstand much more radiation than humans. *[effect/cause]*
9. Scientists have found that cockroaches can dehydrate and die.
They are deprived of their protective coating. *[condition]*
10. People want to keep roaches as peculiar pets.
They should find a way to damage their protective coating. *[condition]*

Exercise 2

Directions: Join the following sets of sentences by using a subordinating conjunction. First, decide how the sentences are logically related; then, choose a subordinating conjunction, which appropriately shows the relationship, to join the sentences.

Example: City politicians need to take action.
The number of trees in American metropolitan areas has decreased twenty-five percent in twenty-five years.

Solution: City politicians need to take action because the number of trees in American metropolitan areas has decreased twenty-five percent in twenty-five years.

1. Fires have caused many American cities to lose trees.
They are not entirely responsible for tree loss.
2. Cities incur the most tree loss.
Trees are removed for skyscrapers, parking lots, and shopping malls.
3. Some people claim that trees are too expensive to care for in urban areas.
A significant amount of research shows the benefits of trees to human health.
4. Trees help clean the environment.
They filter pollutants from the air.
5. Sick people get better faster.
Trees help them recover.
6. Children spend time in nature.
They pay better attention.
7. Research suggests that people want to become more physically active.
They are surrounded by nature.
8. Some people claim that government officials shouldn't take action.
They need to solve other problems, such as domestic violence, first.
9. Studies show that people are less violent.
They live near trees.

10. City officials begin to sponsor tree-planting programs for residents.
Cities will continue to lose trees and their benefits.

Exercise 3

Directions: Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with dependent clauses. Be sure to add information that logically fits with the given subordinator.

Example 1: The band played after the team scored a touchdown.

Example 2: Although I love math, I struggle to get A's.

1. Next fall, I want to travel _____
2. _____ Ted sprained his hand.
3. Paula hears the noise _____
4. He sings _____
5. _____ the train is late.
6. _____ Pedro passed the note.
7. My professor gets upset _____.
8. _____ the boy cried uncontrollably.
9. Heidi rides her bike _____.
10. _____ the nonprofit organization will close.