

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Subordinating conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions, which are also called dependent words, are used to create complex sentences. A complex sentence contains a subordinate or dependent clause and an independent clause (complete sentence).

Examples:

independent clause + *dependent clause* = **complex sentence**

a. Claudia did well on her essay although she was worried about it.

dependent clause + *independent clause* = **complex sentence**

b. When he does his homework, John gets better grades on his tests.

- **Subordinating conjunctions** introduce subordinate clauses and indicate their relation to the rest of the sentence.
- Although they contain a subject and verb, they **cannot** stand alone as a sentence.
- Subordinate clauses may be found at the **beginning or at the end** of a sentence.

Examples:

dependent clause + *independent clause* = **complex sentence**

a. When I went to the store, I bought bread and milk.

independent clause + *dependent clause* = **complex sentence**

b. I bought bread and milk when I went to the store.

Note: In most cases, you do not place a comma before a dependent clause that comes after an independent clause.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

TIME	CONDITION	CONTRAST
after (después de) as soon as (tan pronto que) before (antes de que) since (desde) until (hasta que) when (cuando) whenever (siempre que/cada vez) while (mientras que)	as if (como si) even if (aun si, incluso si) if (si) unless (a menos que/sino) since (como)	although (aunque) even though (aunque) whereas (mientras que) while (mientras que) though (aunque) however (sin embargo) nevertheless (sin embargo) on the other hand (por otra parte)
	PURPOSE	
	in order that (para que) so that (de modo que/para que)	
COMPARISON	PLACE	REASON
just as (tanto como) similarly (similarmente) as with (al igual que con)	where (donde) wherever (donde quiera que) there (ahí)	as (tan/como) because (porque) since (como consecuencia)

Relative pronoun

A subordinate clause may also begin with a **relative pronoun**. Relative pronoun dependent clauses are used to give extra information about the subject.

Examples:

dependent clause

a. Robert, **who is my best friend**, loves to play soccer.

dependent clause

b. Michael moved to Colorado **because he enjoys the outdoors**.

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

that (que)
what (que)
whatever (lo que sea)
which (cuál)

who (quién)
whoever (quién, quienquiera)
whom (quién)
whomever (quién, quienquiera)

whichever (cualquiera)
whose (de quién)
when (cuando)
why (por qué)