

SUBORDINATING

CONJUNCTIONS

A subordinating conjunction is a connecting word or phrase that introduces a dependent clause and joins it to a main clause or independent 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.

There are six main classes of conjunctions, categorized by meaning: time, concession, comparison, cause, condition, and place.

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."