

Combining with Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions are connecting words that are used to join sentences which have ideas that are not of the same importance. These conjunctions express logical relationships between these ideas. When a subordinating conjunction is added to a sentence, that sentence becomes dependent on another sentence to complete its meaning. Subordinating conjunctions can be placed at the beginning of a sentence or after the main sentence. Use a comma only if you start the sentence with the subordinating conjunction. Take, for example, the following sentences:

I was tired from working all day. I did not go out.

These sentences can be joined by adding **because** to one of the sentences, making it dependent on the other:

Because I was tired from working all day, I did not go out. (comma)

OR: I did not go out because I was tired from working all day. (no comma)

Here the word **because** expresses a cause-effect relationship between the two sentences.

The following is a list of subordinating conjunctions and the relationships they express.

Time relationships

<i>After</i>	After I left the house, they had a party.
<i>As</i>	As I was walking down the street, I saw an accident.
<i>Before</i>	Before the lights go out, type your paper.
<i>Once</i>	Once you have finished your assignment, you can relax.
<i>Since</i>	Since I left my baby, I have not been able to relax.
<i>Until</i>	Until the car needs a tune-up, you can drive without worrying.
<i>When</i>	When the semester is over, will you take a vacation?
<i>While</i>	While the music was playing, the students danced.

Cause-effect relationships

<i>Because</i>	Because the weather was pleasant, we had a picnic outside.
<i>Since</i>	Since the water in the lake was warm, we went swimming.

Location

<i>Where</i>	Where there is smoke, there is fire.
<i>Wherever</i>	Wherever you can find a job, you should look for work.

Contrast

<i>Although</i>	Although the man looked honest, the lady did not trust him.
<i>Even though</i>	Even though he was wealthy, he was not happy.

Conditional relationship

<i>If</i>	If I have the opportunity, I will go to your party.
<i>Unless</i>	Unless he stops playing the music so loudly, I will report him to the police.

Combine the following sentences using a subordinating word.

1. Enrique came to the United States only three years ago.
He speaks and writes English beautifully.

2. Computers are no longer very expensive. Many people are using them in their homes.

3. Many students gather in the Student Lounge.
They have nothing to do between classes.

4. Don't talk rudely to Bruno. You want your face rearranged.

5. You are in my hometown. Please come to my place and visit.

6. The car needs an inspection sticker. You can drive without worrying.

7. I was driving down the main street. I saw a robbery in progress.

8. Gina attends the university. She has to graduate from high school first.

9. You have thrown out the garbage. You can watch TV.

10. The summer session is over. Will you take some more classes?

11. Albert watched the game. His wife took care of the baby.

12. There are dark clouds. There is a chance it will rain.
