

Subordinating Conjunctions

Introduction

1) Conjunctions are words that link other words, phrases, clauses, or sentences together.

*Susan is an amazing wife **and** a wonderful mom.*

2) There are many types of conjunctions. Among them there are subordinating conjunctions. They link two clauses, a main (independent) one and a subordinate (dependent) one.

***Although** Emma wanted to go together with them, she declined the invitation.*

The most commonly used subordinating conjunctions are *although, as, because, if, since, though, unless, while, whereas etc.*

Subordinating conjunctions perform two functions in a sentence: they state the importance of the independent clause and provide a transition between two ideas within a sentence.

*[**Once** she stopped caring about strangers' opinions]², [Liz became happier]¹.*

1 – main clause, 2 – subordinate clause

If the subordinate clause follows the main one, we do not usually use a comma.

*[My mom cries]¹ [**whenever** she watches a romantic comedy]².*

1 – main clause, 2 – subordinate clause

If the subordinate clause precedes the main one, use a comma to separate the clauses.

*[**After** he had completed his studies]², [George decided to travel for a year]¹.*

1 – main clause, 2 – subordinate clause

Short Story Dialogue

– **Whenever** my mom doesn't let my little brother eat candies before dinner, he throws a tantrum!

– That sounds awful!

– Yeah, we don't know what to do about it. **Even though** we try to be calm **and** explain **that** you can have some candy after eating properly, he becomes all whiny.

– Maybe he doesn't like something particular? I remember **that** I hated broccoli **when** I was a kid, **and yet** I was always forced to eat it.

– Hmm, you have a good point.

Independent Practice - Subordinating Conjunctions

1) Underline the correct conjunctions.

- a. My brother doesn't like cooking *if/because* he hates cleaning up afterwards.
- b. I know that Carol won't go out with us *if/while* she has a morning shift day.
- c. *Until/Now that* we are grown-ups, we should be in charge of our decisions.
- d. *As long as/Even though* you continue avoiding your fears, you can't live a better life.
- e. Bob doesn't go for a run *and/unless* it's sunny outside.
- f. *Even though/Because* I was very tired, I went to the party.
- g. Linda always goes to thrift shops *rather than/because* she can't afford brand new clothes.
- h. I wanted to talk to Mr. Jones, *which/whose* support was always important to me.
- i. *Once/While* Kate graduates from high school, she wants to travel around the world.
- j. *That/As soon as* the dog hears the doorbell, it runs towards the door.

Independent Practice: Answers - Subordinating Conjunctions

1) Underline the correct conjunctions.

- a. My brother doesn't like cooking if/because he hates cleaning up afterwards.
- b. I know that Carol won't go out with us if/while she has a morning shift day.
- c. Until/Now that we are grown-ups, we should be in charge of our decisions.
- d. As long as/Even though you continue avoiding your fears, you can't live a better life.
- e. Bob doesn't go for a run and/unless it's sunny outside.
- f. Even though/Because I was very tired, I went to the party.
- g. Linda always goes to thrift shops rather than/because she can't afford brand new clothes.
- h. I wanted to talk to Mr. Jones, which/whose support was always important to me.
- i. Once/While Kate graduates from high school, she wants to travel around the world.
- j. That/As soon as the dog hears the doorbell, it runs towards the door.