

## Subordinating Conjunction

A conjunction is a word that connects elements of a sentence: words to words, phrases to phrases, or clauses to clauses, and they signal logical relationships among them. There are three types of conjunctions: subordinating conjunctions, coordinating conjunctions, and correlative conjunctions.

### 1. Subordinating Conjunction:

Subordinating conjunctions are words which are used to link subordinate clauses with the main clauses in a complex sentence. In other words, they are used to join an independent or main (principal) clause with a dependent (subordinate) one that relies on the main clause for meaning and relevance. They include: after, because, if, though, although, till, before, unless, as, when, where, while, than, whether, in order that, nevertheless, etc. They can help a sentence describe time, cause-and-effect, condition, contrast, and place...

#### ▪ Dependent vs. Independent Clauses:

There are two types of clauses: dependent and independent. Independent clauses contain a subject and verb and can stand alone as a sentence. Dependent clauses include a subordinating conjunction and cannot stand alone as sentences.

#### ▪ Dependent Clauses & Comma:

A dependent clause begins with a subordinating conjunction and is not a sentence on its own. When you read a dependent clause by itself, you will feel that something is missing. Examples: When I get home; After we go swimming; Before we go to the movies.

Because dependent clauses are not sentences, a dependent clause requires a comma if it comes before an independent idea. A comma is not needed when it follows an independent idea.

#### Examples:

- Because it rained very hard, we had to leave early. This sentence has a comma after the dependent idea because the independent idea follows it.
- We had to leave early because it rained very hard. This sentence has no comma because the dependent idea follows the independent idea.

## 2. Some Subordinating conjunctions:

Time	Place	Cause/ Effect	Contrast and Concession	Condition	Purpose
After as as soon as before now that once since until till when whenever while	Where wherever	as because due to the fact that since so that in order that	although* even though* even if despite the fact that in spite of the fact that though* while* whereas*	as [far/long/soon] as as if as though even if if on condition that unless whether or not	so that in order to for fear that

- ❖ **Exception with contrasts and concessions:** when using conjunctions to show contrast or concession in the middle of a sentence, you may use a comma before them. John won the race, **even though** he fell and broke his foot.