

Understanding Subordinating Conjunctions

Exploring Subordinating Conjunctions

- Conjunctions are a part of speech that link elements of a sentence together.
- Subordinating conjunctions are a special type of conjunction that specifically link certain types of clauses to each other, namely what are called dependent clauses to independent clauses.
- By using subordinating conjunctions properly, you can learn create proper sentences that are grammatically correct.
- In this lesson, you will learn about **subordinating conjunctions**.

What is a Subordinating Conjunction?

Subordinating conjunctions are conjunctions that introduce a dependent clause, a clause that cannot stand by itself in a sentence. Many of these words are contained in the phrase, BISA WAVE- which stands for *because, if, so, after, when, although, while, even though*. But there are other words and phrases also, like *unless, once, in order that, whereas*, etc.

For example:

Although he was late, Tim didn't give an excuse.

Although he was late contains the subordinator, *although*.

The clause, *Tim didn't give an excuse* can stand completely alone.

Although introduces the dependent clause, *although he was late*.

TIP The **subordinating conjunctions** *because, if, so, after, when, although, while, even though, unless* are usually a dead give-away for the existence of a dependent clause in a sentence.

For example:

He worked hard every day *although* he was tired, *even though* he was sick.

There are two dependent clauses in this sentence, one introduced by the word, *although*, the other by the phrase, *even though*.

Understanding Subordinating Conjunctions Questions

Part 1 Directions:

Choose the best answer and write it in the space provided.

1. _____ it was snowing, I didn't feel cold at all. **Although** **Because**
2. _____ my daughter isn't fluent in French, she won't apply for the translator's position. **Whereas** **Since**
3. Harold couldn't get his tweed suit altered, _____ the tailor's shop was closed. **even though** **because**
4. _____ I like to go to the city to shop, my sister prefers to stay in the vicinity. **Whereas** **Since**
5. I'll eat ice cream and cake today, _____ it isn't my birthday. **because** **even though**
6. I got hired to work there the first time I interviewed, _____ my friend had to interview several times. **as** **while**

Part 2 Directions:

Underline the subordinating conjunction in each sentence below.

Ex.: After she dieted for a month, she lost 12 pounds.

1. Johnny made a snowman while the other children went sledding down the hill.
2. Although he passed the lie detector test, the state prosecutor still tried to get a conviction.
3. Unless that candidate gains more approval, she stands to lose the election.
4. Even though we've made huge strides in space exploration, we still have a long way to go if we hope to colonize other planets.
5. Mother will pick us up from the theatre as soon as the movie is over.
6. Fred wants to raise his grade point average so that he'll have a better chance of getting into a prominent university.
7. If we want to leave a legacy of a clean and prosperous world to all future generations, we must address global warming, alternative energy, and environmental pollution.

Understanding Subordinating Conjunctions Questions (cont'd)

Part 3 Directions:

Complete the clause in the space provided. Highlight the subordinating conjunction.

Ex.: *Since* tryouts are tomorrow, I will practice tonight.

1. Before _____, she made sure she had her lunch money.
2. Even though _____, Travis put the finishing touches on his project.
3. We'd love for you to join us for dinner, unless -
_____.
4. Our entire family gets front row tickets when
_____.
5. Until _____, you can't hang out with friends.
6. She never went swimming or hiking alone because
_____.

Understanding Subordinating Conjunctions Answers

Part 1

1. Although it was snowing, I didn't feel cold at all. Although Because
2. Since my daughter isn't fluent in French, she won't apply for the translator's position.
Whereas Since
3. Harold couldn't get his tweed suit altered, because the tailor's shop was closed.
even though because
4. Whereas I like to go to the city to shop, my sister prefers to stay in the vicinity.
Whereas Since
5. I'll eat ice cream and cake today, even though it isn't my birthday.
because even though
6. I got hired to work there the first time I interviewed, while my friend had to interview several times.
as while

Part 2

1. Johnny made a snowman while the other children went sledding down the hill.
2. Although he passed the lie detector test, the state prosecutor still tried to get a conviction.
3. Unless that candidate gains more approval, she stands to lose the election.
4. Even though we've made huge strides in space exploration, we still have a long way to go if we hope to colonize other planets.
5. Mother will pick us up from the theatre as soon as the movie is over.
6. Fred wants to raise his grade point average so that he'll have a better chance of getting into a prominent university.
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Understanding Subordinating Conjunctions Answers (cont'd)

Part 3: Answers will vary.

1. *Before* leaving for school, she made sure she had her lunch money.
2. *Even though* his project isn't due today, Travis put the finishing touches on his project.
3. We'd love for you to join us for dinner, *unless* you have other plans this evening.
4. Our entire family gets front row tickets *when* the circus comes to town.
5. *Until* you finish all your chores, you can't hang out with friends.
6. She never went swimming or hiking alone *because* she knew it could be dangerous.