

Subordinating Conjunctions

..... a practical handout

What is a subordinating conjunction?

A subordinating conjunction is a word that links together an independent clause and a dependent clause. They can help a sentence describe time, cause-and-effect, and place. A subordinating conjunction can be placed in between an independent and dependent clause. It can also be placed in front of a dependent clause.

Remember!

- An independent clause is a complete thought or sentence that includes a subject and a verb.
- A dependent clause often has a verb and subject but is not a complete thought.

List of subordinating conjunctions

After	Even though	Than	Whenever
Although	If	That	Where
As	In order	Though	Whereas
Because	Once	Unless	Wherever
Before	Rather than	Until	Whether
Even if	Since	When	While

Examples

Example 1:

*Maria likes to go rock climbing, **rather** than swimming.*

- “Maria likes to go rock climbing” → Independent clause (it can be a full sentence alone)
- “than swimming” → Dependent clause (This sentence cannot stand alone because it does not have a subject)
- “**rather**” links both clauses together

Example 2:

***When** the police arrive, Detective Johnson describes how the thief broke in.*

- “Detective Johnson describes how the chief broke in” → Independent clause (it can be a full sentence alone)
- “the police arrive” → Dependent clause (This does have a subject and verb, but it cannot stand alone)
- “**When**” links both clauses together

References

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