

# Subordinating Conjunctions:

What Is a Subordinating Conjunction?



# Getting Started

## What is a conjunction?

A conjunction links two or more words, phrases or clauses together.

There are **two** main types of conjunctions we use within sentences.

Do you know what they both are?

Subordinate clauses do not make sense on their own but when they are used with a main clause, they create a complex sentence.

- **subordinating conjunctions** (*e.g. when*) can be at the start or in the middle of a sentence and join the main clause and subordinate clause together

# I Saw a Wabub...

...is an acronym to help you remember the first letters of some of the most important subordinating conjunctions.

If

Since

As

When

Although

While

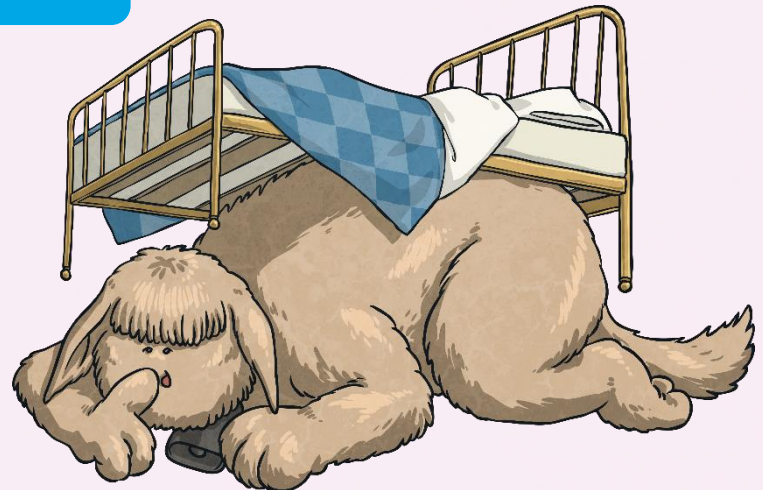
After

Before

Until

Because

## I SAW A WABUB!





## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Can you spot the **subordinate clause** and the **subordinating conjunction** in this sentence?

The eager pupils sped into school  
**when** the bell rang.



## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Can you spot the **subordinate clause** and the **subordinating conjunction** in this sentence?

Whales give birth to live young  
**as** they are mammals.





## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Can you spot the **subordinate clause** and the **subordinating conjunction** in this sentence?

The hopeless rugby team lost the game **because they hadn't trained.**





## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



In the sentences we have looked at so far, the subordinate clause has always come after the main clause but watch...

**When the bells rang, the school pupils rushed into school.**



## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



**When** the bell rang, the eager pupils sped into school.

Subordinating conjunctions can also be used as the first word in a sentence. When the subordinate clause comes before the main clause, make sure you remember to use a comma to mark where the subordinate clause ends.



## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Can you swap these sentences around so that the subordinate clause comes before the main clause?  
Don't forget your commas!

W~~hales~~ ~~As they are born to live,~~ ~~you~~ ~~as~~ ~~gives~~  
give ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~goal~~ ~~ing.~~

~~Be~~ ~~cause~~ ~~they~~ ~~hadn't~~ ~~trained,~~ ~~the~~  
~~hopes~~ ~~because~~ ~~by~~ ~~they~~ ~~lost~~ ~~the~~ ~~game.~~



# Subordinating Conjunction Hunt

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Can you spot the subordinating conjunctions in this piece of text? Where have they been used in these sentences?

As he walked closer, Cleo could see the crocodilius in the cave entrance.

The beast was hurriedly eating the remains of its last unlucky victim

because it was ravenous. Cleo examined its bright red eyes, huge smoking nostrils and razor-sharp teeth while the beast was occupied.

Although Cleo was standing quite a distance away, the terrible stench of the gruesome beast was still making him feel nauseous. Cleo took a deep breath before he tiptoed bravely forward. It was time for battle.



# Practise Your Skills

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Now, it's your turn.

Which subordinating conjunction would fit best  
at the start of this subordinate clause?

Is there more than one possibility?

I am sending you a letter \_\_\_\_\_  
I am your biggest fan.



# Practise Your Skills

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Now, it's your turn.

Which subordinating conjunction would fit best  
at the start of this subordinate clause?  
Is there more than one possibility?

\_\_\_\_\_ I eat lunch, I am going  
to an important meeting.



# Practise Your Skills

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Now, it's your turn.  
Can you finish off the sentence and add a  
subordinating conjunction?

\_\_\_\_\_ he was late to work,

\_\_\_\_\_



# Practise Your Skills

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Now, it's your turn.  
Can you finish off the sentence and add a  
subordinating conjunction?

The dog hurried inside ..