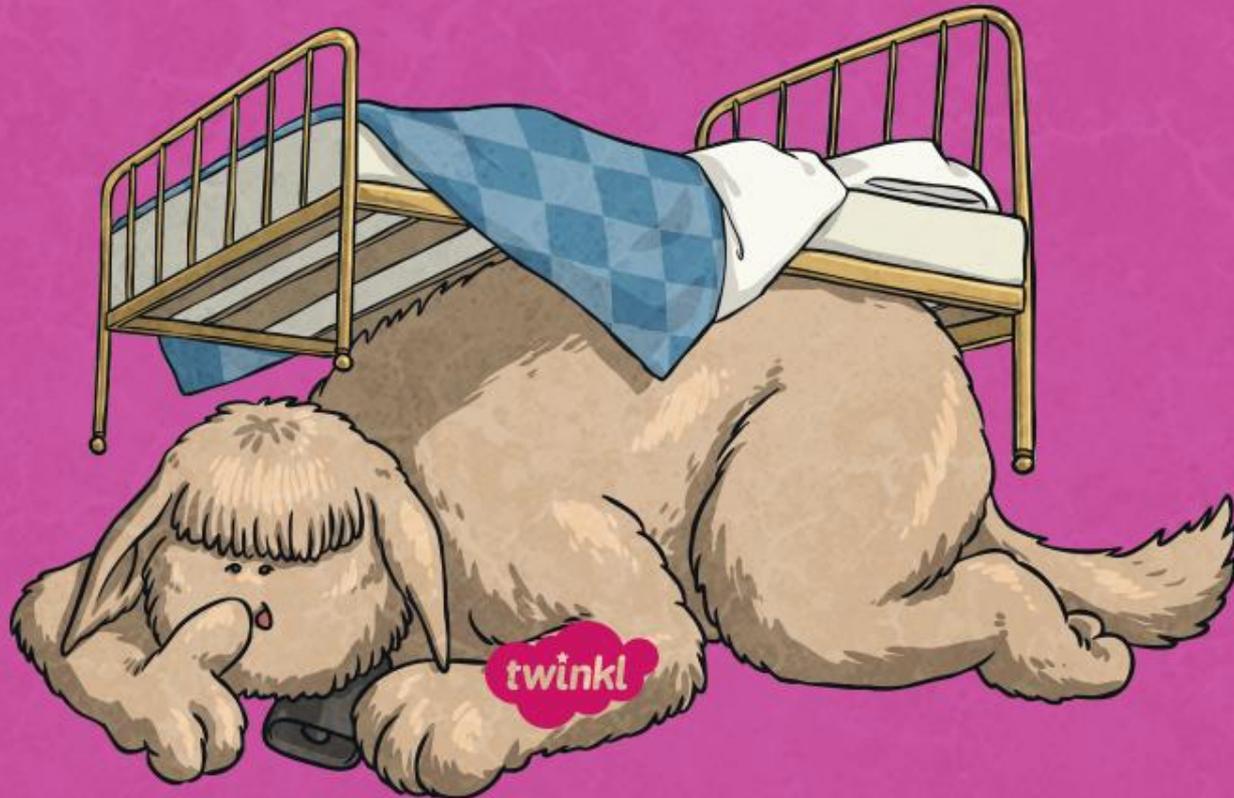


# Subordinating Conjunctions:

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?

- **co-ordinating conjunctions** (*e.g. and*) link two main clauses together as an equal pair to create a compound sentence. We usually remember these words using the acronym 'FANBOYS'.
- **subordinating conjunctions** (*e.g. when*) introduce a subordinate clause. You can remember some of the most useful subordinating conjunctions by...

...spotting one of the rarest monsters on the planet, a wabub, and shouting...

**I SAW A  
WABUB!**



# 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

So, how do we use subordinating conjunctions?

Subordinating conjunctions are the first words within a subordinate clause. Subordinate clauses do not make sense on their own but when they are used with a main clause, they create a complex (multi-clause) sentence.

Subordinate clauses will always have a subject and verb within them, e.g.

after she smiled



subordinating  
conjunction



subject



verb

**is a subordinate clause**

after Christmas



Here 'after' is being  
used as a preposition.

**is not a subordinate clause**



## 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?

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?

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





## 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...

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



## 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 bell rang, the eager pupils sped 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!

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

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



## 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!

**As** they are mammals, whales give birth to live young.

**Because** they hadn't trained, the hopeless rugby team lost the game.



# 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.

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

Is there more than one possibility?

\_\_\_\_\_ he was thrown from his saddle,  
Henry was wary of riding his horse.



# 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?

The two chemicals should cause a reaction \_\_\_\_\_ you have used them in the right quantities.



# Quick Quiz: Question 3

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Can you remember all of the subordinating conjunctions using the 'I SAW A WABUB' acronym?

**If**   **Since**   **As**   **When**   **Although**  
**While**   **After**   **Before**   **Until**   **Because**