

Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions are used to join a dependent clause (incomplete thought) to an independent clause.

Common Subordinating Conjunctions

after	although	as	as if	as long as
as though	because	before	even if	even though
if	if only	in order to	now that	once
rather than	since	so that	still	than
that	unless	until	when	whenever
where	whereas	wherever	while	

Example: I will be able to drive when I get older.

“I will be able to drive.” → independent clause (complete thought)

“when I get older” → dependent clause (incomplete thought)

The subordinating conjunction “when” is used to join the dependent clause to the independent clause.

Practice exercises

Directions: Fill in the blanks using an appropriate subordinating conjunction.

1. He behaves _____ he ruled the world.
2. We started moving _____ he took his foot off the brake.
3. I am going to go _____ my parents say I can't.
4. I waited _____ my mom paid for the groceries.
5. We will go running _____ we tie our shoes.
6. We can eat lunch _____ you like.
7. I'm not leaving _____ you say you're sorry.
8. I turned the key _____ start the car.
9. I want to go _____ money grows on trees.
10. We got to the scene of the crime right _____ the robbers ran away.

*Adapted from englishforeverone.org

