Subordinating Conjunctions

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

**Common Subordinating Conjunctions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>after</th>
<th>although</th>
<th>as</th>
<th>as if</th>
<th>as long as</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>as though</td>
<td>because</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>even if</td>
<td>even though</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if</td>
<td>if only</td>
<td>in order to</td>
<td>now that</td>
<td>once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rather than</td>
<td>since</td>
<td>so that</td>
<td>still</td>
<td>than</td>
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<tr>
<td>that</td>
<td>unless</td>
<td>until</td>
<td>when</td>
<td>whenever</td>
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<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>whereas</td>
<td>wherever</td>
<td>while</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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*