

Sentences

Booster 1: Subordinating conjunctions

Key learning

A subordinating conjunction joins a dependent (or subordinate) clause to a main clause in a sentence. The dependent clause gives extra detail to the main clause. For example:

Dependent clause **Main clause**

Although I was very nervous, I passed my driving test.

Different conjunctions link information in different ways. Here are some examples:

To give a reason: I passed my driving test **because / as** I had a lot of practice.

To give information on time: **Before / after** my test, I was very nervous / happy.

To show a contrast between two ideas: I managed to pass, **although** I was very tired.

Worked example:

Use each of the conjunctions below and a dependent clause to add to the main clauses in different ways. Remember you can sometimes use a conjunction at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence.

when after although because as

1. Joel joined the local gym.
2. Marie started cycling to college.

Answers:

1.

When he had the money, Joel joined the local gym.

After his tour of the facilities, Joel joined the local gym.

Joel joined the local gym, **although** it was expensive.

Because he wanted to get fit, Joel joined the local gym.

As there was no joining fee, Joel joined the local gym.

2.

When the weather improved, Marie started cycling to college.

After practising the route, Marie started cycling to college.

Marie started cycling to college, **although** it was five miles.

Because it was cheaper than the bus, Marie started cycling to college.

As she had a new bike, Marie started cycling to college.

Notice the comma in each sentence. The dependent (or subordinate) clauses and the conjunction do not make sense on their own. They need to be connected to the main clause with a comma.

Your turn:

Think about a film you've seen recently or a product you've bought and write a short review.

Use at least **one** conjunction from **each** group in your review:

after / before / when

although / but

because / as