

What Is a Subordinating Conjunction?

A **subordinating conjunction** is a word which still **links two clauses** together in a sentence, but the **subordinate clause** it adds does not make sense on its own.

Let's look at a few examples:



I will be late **if** I don't get on the next bus.

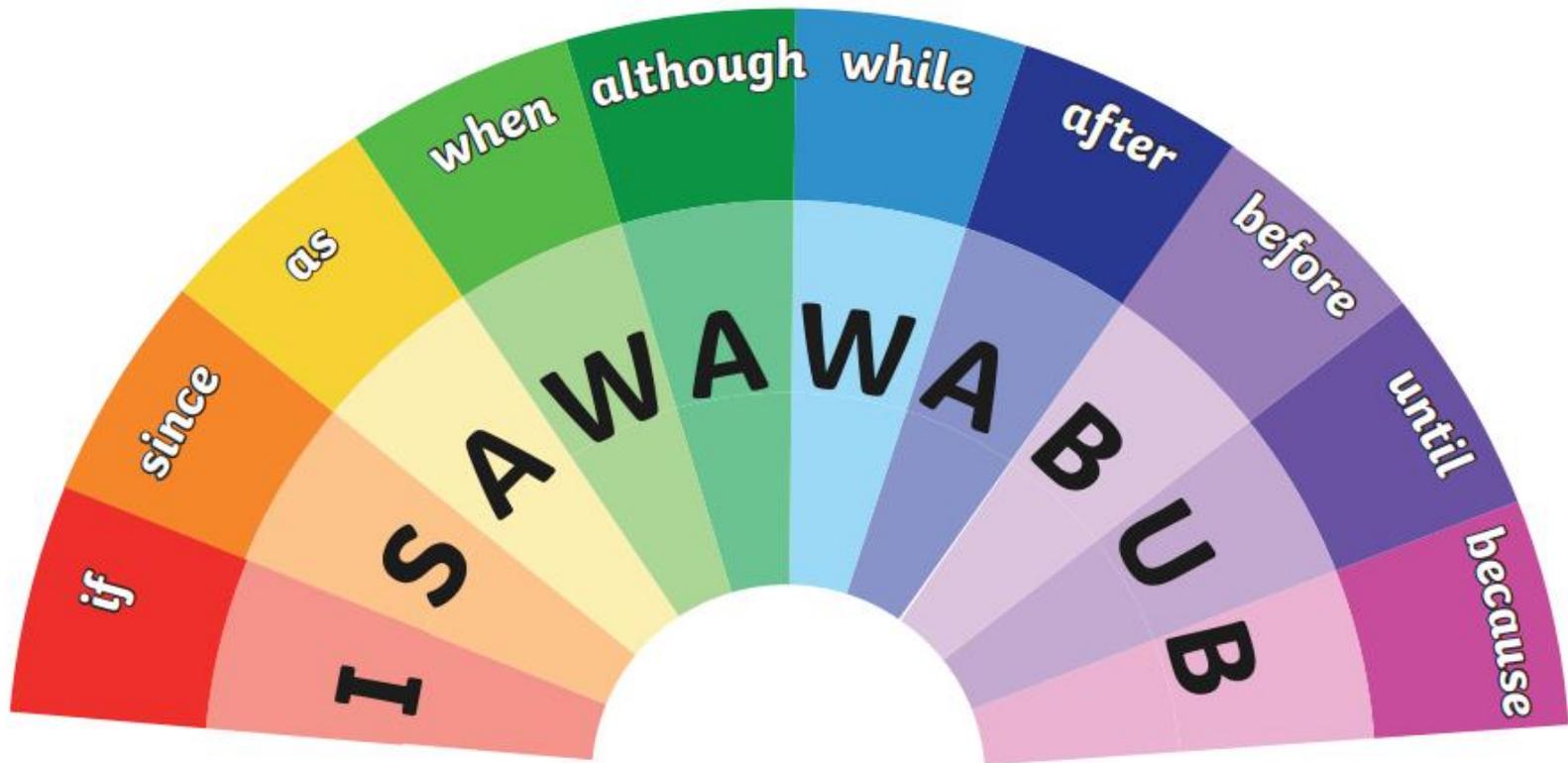
Subordinate Clause

'I will be late' is the **main clause**. This clause makes sense on its own. The **subordinating conjunction** in this sentence is 'if'. It starts the subordinate clause.

'if I don't get on the next bus' is the **subordinate clause**. This doesn't make sense on its own but does add extra information to the main clause.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Here are 10 of the most common subordinating conjunctions. They are used at the beginning of a subordinating clause which is a clause that doesn't make sense on its own.



Which Conjunction Makes Sense?

Read the main and subordinate clauses below and decide which **subordinating conjunction** would make the most sense.



Beth was a little bit scared _____ the ride was spinning quickly.

Hazim cheered loudly _____ his favourite player scored a goal.



I didn't go to school _____ it was closed for the summer holidays.

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

Which Conjunction Makes Sense?

Did you manage to choose a subordinating conjunction which makes sense in the sentence?



Beth was a little bit scared **as** the ride was spinning quickly.

In this sentence, the conjunctions 'because', 'when' and 'while' also make sense.



Hazim cheered loudly **when** his favourite player scored a goal.

In this sentence, the conjunctions 'because', 'as', 'while' and 'after' also make sense.



I didn't go to school **while** it was closed for the summer holidays.

In this sentence, the conjunctions 'because', 'since', 'as' and 'when' also make sense.

Where Is the Subordinate Clause?

Read the following sentences and identify only the **subordinate clause**.



Siobhan had not seen her auntie since she met her at the cinema last Friday.

Mo smiled for the cameras as he crossed the finish line.



Keri was tired after completing her marathon swim.

Top tip: A subordinate clause does not make sense on its own.

Where Is the Subordinate Clause?

The **subordinate clauses** in these sentences are underlined. They always **start with a subordinating conjunction**.



Siobhan had not seen her auntie since she met her at the cinema last Thursday.



Mo smiled for the cameras as he crossed the finish line.



Keri was tired after completing her marathon swim.

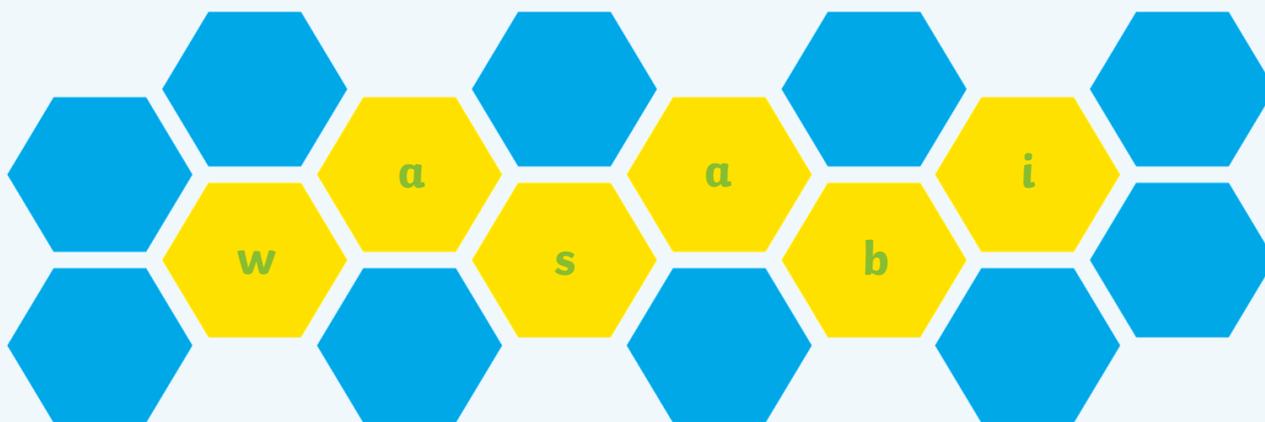
Silly Sentences

Choose a **main clause**, a **subordinating conjunction** and a **subordinate clause** to make the silliest sentences you can **that still make sense**.

Main Clauses	Subordinating Conjunctions	Subordinate Clauses
Jimmy was crying	because	they are salty.
Laura needed a bag	until	she dropped her shopping.
The job was finished	although	he lost his sock.
School was closed	while	the painting was done.
She put the flowers in the vase	before	she bought them.
I love crisps	when	the end of the day.

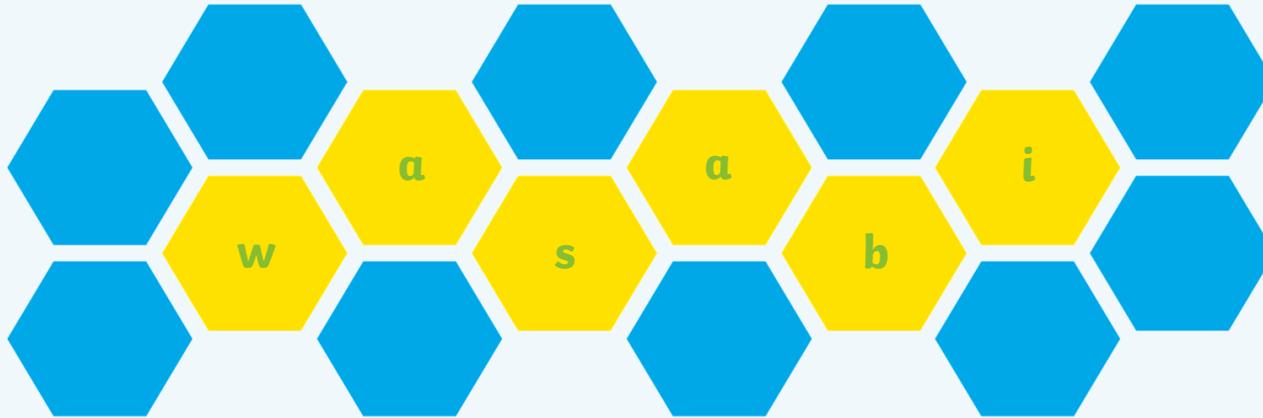
Block Busters

Fill in the missing words by choosing an appropriate subordinating conjunction. Use the first letter of each answer to spell out the hidden word.



- 1) Lee listened to some music _____ he waited.
- 2) I ate my dessert _____ I ate my dinner.
- 3) It has been a long time _____ I have seen my auntie.
- 4) I tried my best on the test _____ it was hard.
- 5) Paul must tidy up the mess _____ his Granny sees it.
- 6) You would be very tired _____ you had just finished a marathon.

Block Busters



- 1) Lee listened to some music **while** he waited.
- 2) I ate my dessert **after** I ate my dinner.
- 3) It has been a long time **since** I have seen my auntie.
- 4) I tried my best on the test **although** it was hard.
- 5) Paul must tidy up the mess **before** his Granny sees it.
- 6) You would be very tired **if** you had just finished a marathon.

What does the hidden word mean? Look it up in a dictionary!
Can you write it in a sentence using a subordinating conjunction?