

Identifying, Using, and Punctuating Subordinating Conjunctions

An independent clause is a group of words that stands as a complete thought, from both a content and grammatical point of view. Sometimes you can add a word to an independent clause and it will change this clause to a dependent one (**SHAZAM!**), meaning it is no longer a complete thought and can't stand alone. Some of these magical words are called subordinating conjunctions. So when you use a subordinating conjunction on an independent clause, it becomes dependent, requiring you to attach it to an independent clause.

In addition, if you use a subordinating conjunction at the beginning of a clause, it makes it a dependent clause and you must put a comma after that clause. If you use a subordinating conjunction in the middle of a sentence (after the independent clause), you do not need a comma.

Here are some examples (subordinating conjunctions in bold, independent clauses in italics).

After the storm, *Toby collected worms.* *Toby collected worms* **after** the storm,

Until she apologizes, *I'm not sharing.* *I'm not sharing* **until** she apologizes.

To use this tool properly, it is essential that you understand what an independent clause is and that you can identify complete sentences!!!!

Here is a list of some words/phrases that can appear as subordinating conjunctions.

after	although	as	because
before	by the time	even if	even though
every time	if	in case	now that
once	only if	since	though
unless	until	when	whenever
whereas	whether or not	while	as a result

Using the list above, write a logical subordinating conjunction in each slot. Punctuate appropriately when necessary.

1. The bank was closed down by federal regulators _____ it lost more money than it earned.
2. _____ Paula wants to look mysterious she wears dark sunglasses and a scarf.

3. _____ the restaurant was closing in fifteen minutes customers sipped their coffee slowly and continued to talk.
4. The waiter was instructed not to serve any food _____ the guests of honor arrived.
5. _____ anyone else could answer it Carl rushed to the phone.
6. _____ apples were on sale we decided to make an apple pie for dessert.
7. Lamont listens to books on tape _____ he drives to work.
8. _____ she finished her exam Joanne could relax.

Circle the subordinating conjunction and punctuate the following correctly:

1. Because Jane is always eating she is never hungry.
2. Jane is never hungry because she is always eating.
3. Since Thomas came to town things have not been the same.
4. Things have not been the same since Thomas came to town.
5. Until you fix the bathtub no one can take a bath.
6. No one can take a bath until you fix the bathtub.
7. Every time Samson went to the barbershop poor Delilah would whine.
8. I will eat the fried worms only if you add lots of salt.
9. Although I do so much enjoy school I will be happy for summer to come.
10. After the fall of Rome all was chaos.
11. Stanley will inherit the millions though he will spend it all on Skiddles.
12. I can't help but think of cheese everytime I see a cow.
13. Unicorns are my favorite animal because they have a horn that can gore people.
14. If I have to put one more comma in a sentence I'll go nuts!