Subordinating Conjunctions:

What Is a Subordinating Conjunction?

twinkl
Quality Standard
Approved

Aim

- I can recognise and use subordinating conjunctions.

Success Criteria

- I can recognise that subordinating conjunctions are used to create subordinate clauses.
- I know that subordinate clauses are used within complex (multi-clause) sentences.
- I can use 'I SAW A WABUB!' to remember the main subordinating conjunctions.
- I can write my own complex (multi-clause) sentences using different subordinating conjunctions.

twinkl.com

Getting Started

What is a conjunction?

A conjunction links two or more words, phrases or clauses together.

There are **two** main types of conjunctions we use within sentences.

Do you know what they both are?

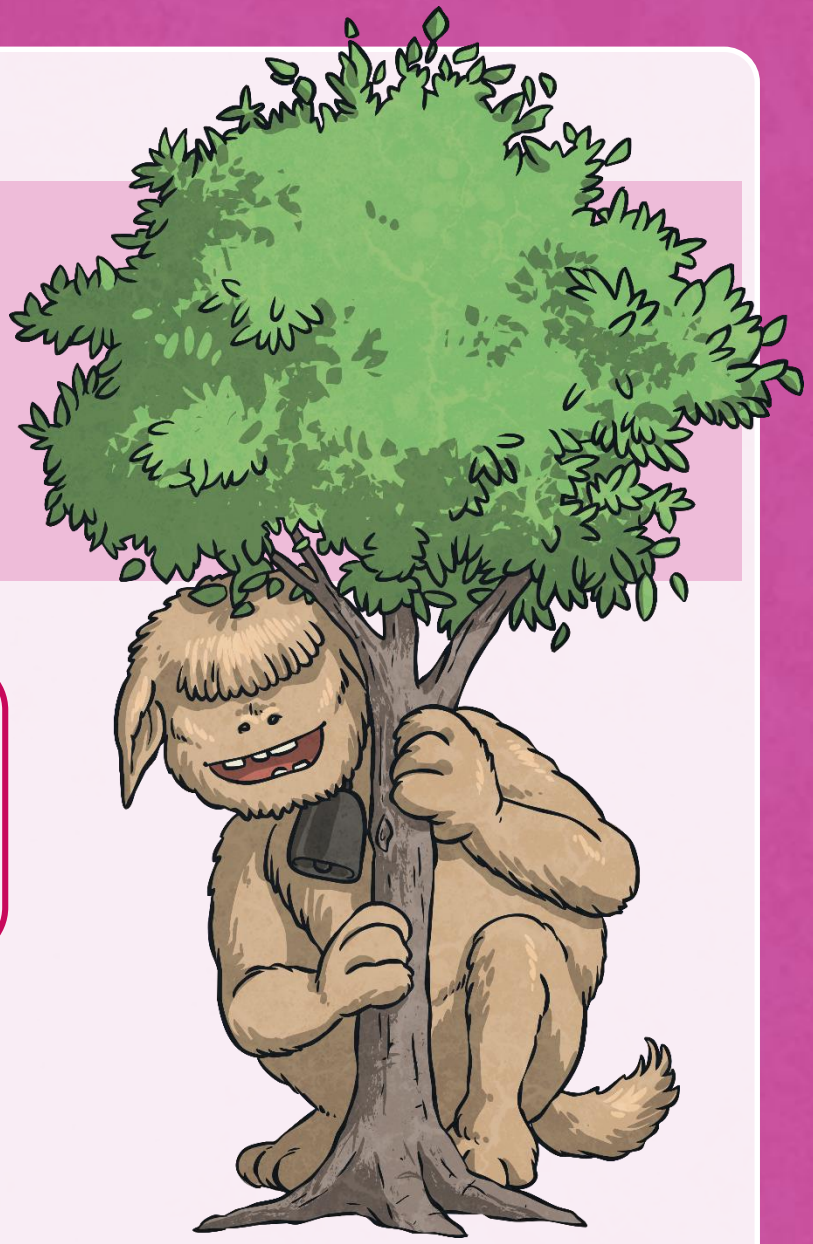
- **co-ordinating conjunctions** (*e.g. and*) link two main clauses together as an equal pair to create a compound sentence. We usually remember these words using the acronym 'FANBOYS'.

- **subordinating conjunctions** (*e.g. when*) introduce a subordinate clause. You can remember some of the most useful subordinating conjunctions by...

twinkl.com

...spotting one of the rarest monsters on the planet, a wabub, and shouting...

I SAW A WABUB!



twinkl.com

I Saw a Wabub...

...is an acronym to help you remember the first letters of some of the most important subordinating conjunctions.

If | Since | As | When | Although

While | After | Before | Until | Because

I SAW A WABUB!

twinkl.com

Next Steps

So, how do we use subordinating conjunctions?

Subordinating conjunctions are the first words within a subordinate clause. Subordinate clauses do not make sense on their own but, when they are used with a main clause, they create a complex (multi-clause) sentence.

Subordinate clauses will always have a subject and verb within them, e.g.

after she smiled

subordinating conjunction | subject | verb

is a subordinate clause

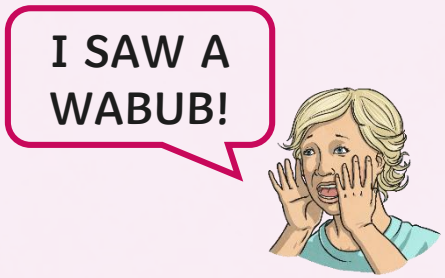
after Christmas

Here 'after' is being used as a preposition.

is not a subordinate clause

twinkl.com

Next Steps

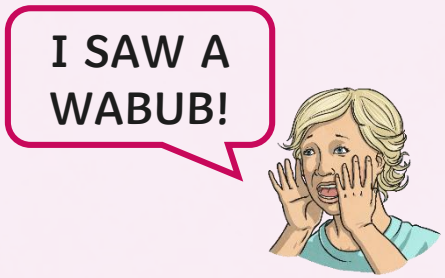


Can you spot the subordinate clause and the subordinating conjunction in this sentence?

The eager pupils sped into school when the bell rang.

twinkl.com

Next Steps

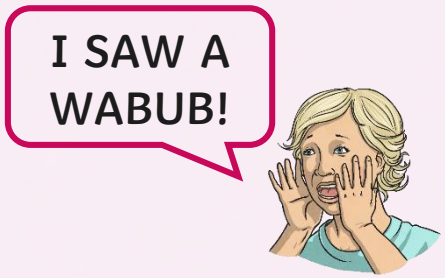


Can you spot the subordinate clause and the subordinating conjunction in this sentence?

Whales give birth to live young as they are mammals.

twinkl.com

Next Steps

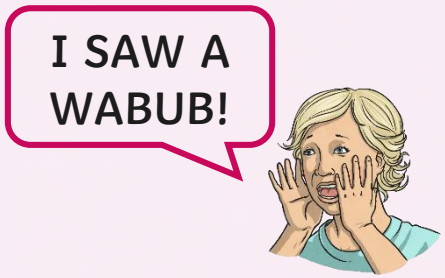


Can you spot the subordinate clause and the subordinating conjunction in this sentence?

The hopeless rugby team lost the game because they hadn't trained.

twinkl.com

Next Steps



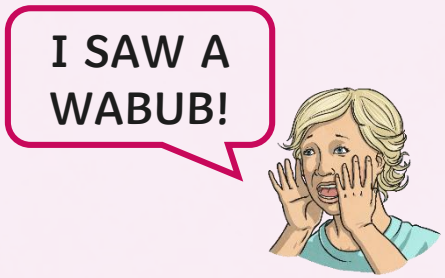
In the sentences we have looked at so far, the subordinate clause has always come after the main clause but watch...

When the bell rang, the pupils sped to school.

The pupils sped to school when the bell rang.

twinkl.com

Next Steps

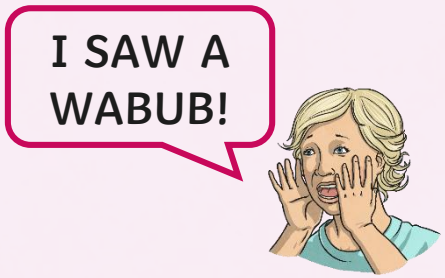


When the bell rang, the eager pupils sped into school.

Subordinating conjunctions can also be used as the first word in a sentence. When the subordinate clause comes before the main clause, make sure you remember to use a comma to mark where the subordinate clause ends.

twinkl.com

Next Steps



Can you swap these sentences around so that the subordinate clause comes before the main clause? Don't forget your commas!

Whales give birth to live young.

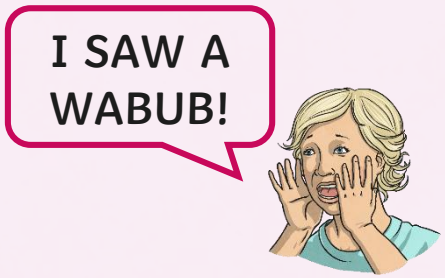
As they are mammals, whales give birth to live young.

Although we were hopeless rugby team, we lost the game.

Because we were hopeless rugby team, we lost the game.

Because they hadn't trained, the rugby team lost the game.

Subordinating Conjunction Hunt

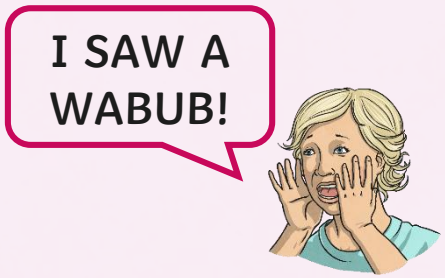


Can you spot the subordinating conjunctions in this piece of text? Where have they been used in these sentences?

As he walked closer, Cleo could see the crocodilius in the cave entrance. The beast was hurriedly eating the remains of its last unlucky victim because it was ravenous. Cleo examined its bright red eyes, huge smoking nostrils and razor-sharp teeth while the beast was occupied. Although Cleo was standing quite a distance away, the terrible stench of the gruesome beast was still making him feel nauseous. Cleo took a deep breath before he tiptoed bravely forward. It was time for battle.

twinkl.com

Practise Your Skills

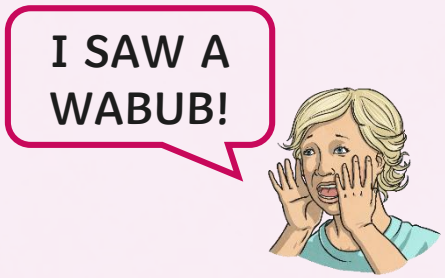


Now, it's your turn.
Which subordinating conjunction would fit best at the start of this subordinate clause?
Is there more than one possibility?

I am sending you a letter _____
I am your biggest fan.

twinkl.com

Practise Your Skills

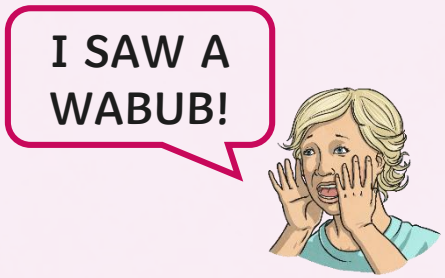


Now, it's your turn.
Which subordinating conjunction would fit best at the start of this subordinate clause?
Is there more than one possibility?

_____ I eat lunch, I am going to an important meeting.

twinkl.com

Practise Your Skills

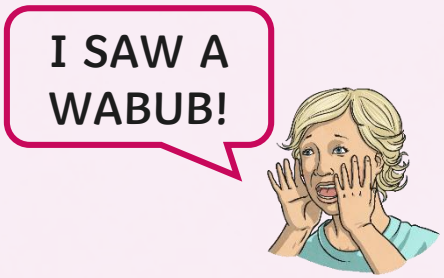


Now, it's your turn.
Which subordinating conjunction would fit best at the start of this subordinate clause?
Is there more than one possibility?

_____ he was thrown from his saddle, Henry was wary of riding his horse.

twinkl.com

Practise Your Skills



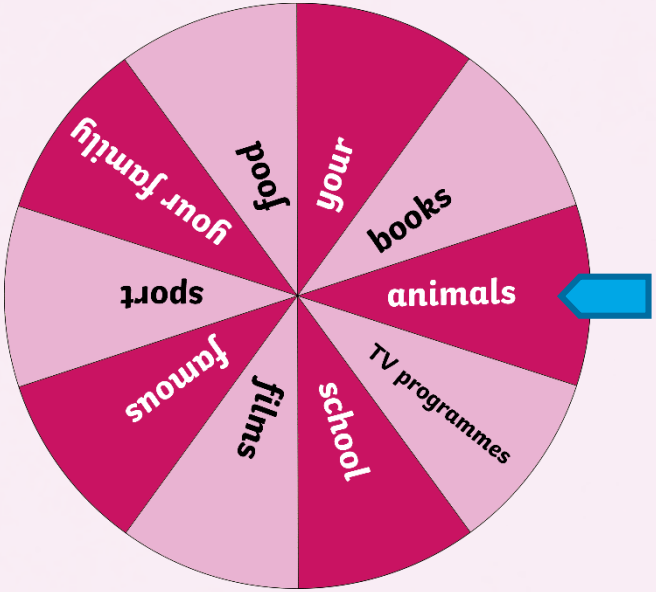
Now, it's your turn.
Which subordinating conjunction would fit best at the start of this subordinate clause?
Is there more than one possibility?

The two chemicals should cause a reaction _____ you have used them in the right quantities.

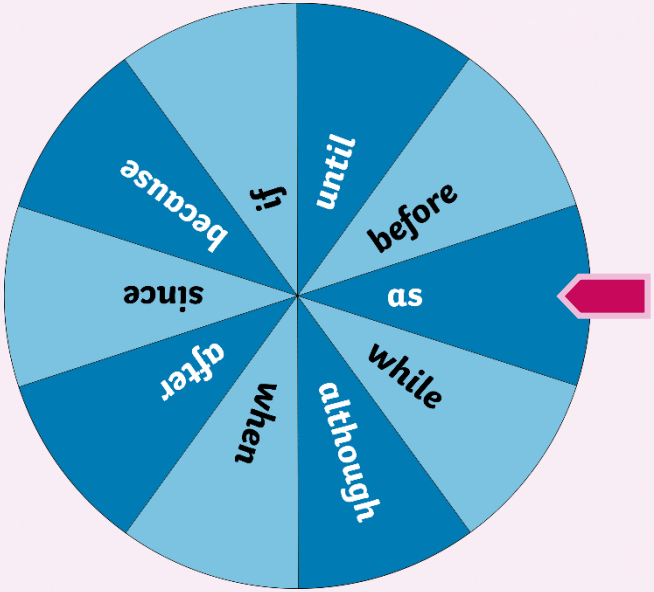
twinkl.com

Let's Play

Can you use different subordinating conjunctions accurately in sentences about certain topics? Spin the two spinners to give you a topic and a subordinating conjunction. Write your sentences on a whiteboard. Try to vary the position of your subordinating conjunctions.



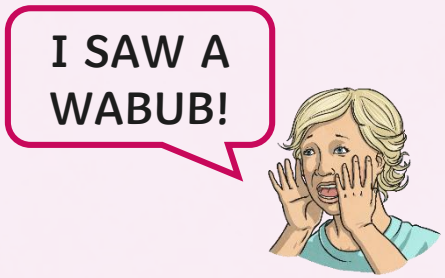
Spin



Spin

twinkl.com

Quick Quiz: Question 1



Can you spot the subordinating conjunctions in these sentences?

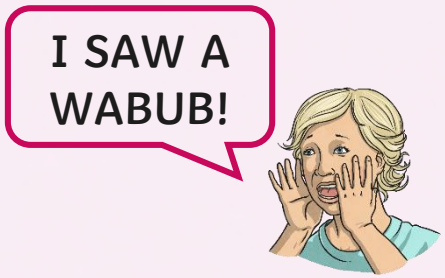
a) Until she tried, Daphne didn't know that she could whistle.

b) Heavy snow poured from the skies while the children made a snowman.

c) Although it was expensive, the couple enjoyed their meal at the award-winning restaurant.

twinkl.com

Quick Quiz: Question 2



Complete the sentences below by writing the subordinating conjunctions from the box in the correct places to form complex sentences. Use each conjunction only once.

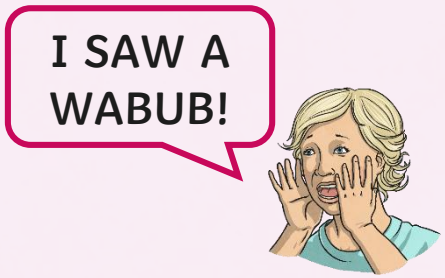
a) The greenhouse got smashed _____ the boys were playing football.

b) _____ they were in trouble, they had to go inside the house.

c) _____ they were well-behaved, they could have their ball back next week.

twinkl.com

Quick Quiz: Question 3



Can you remember all of the subordinating conjunctions using the '**I SAW A WABUB**' acronym?

If **S**ince **A**s **W**hen **A**lthough

While **A**fter **B**efore **U**ntil **B**ecause

twinkl.com

Aim

- I can recognise and use subordinating conjunctions.

Success Criteria

- I can recognise that subordinating conjunctions are used to create subordinate clauses.
- I know that subordinate clauses are used within complex (multi-clause) sentences.
- I can use 'I SAW A WABUB!' to remember the main subordinating conjunctions.
- I can write my own complex (multi-clause) sentences using different subordinating conjunctions.

twinkl.com

twinkl

twinkl
Quality Standard
Approved