**What is a Subordinating Conjunction?**

A subordinating conjunction is a word that connects a main clause to a subordinate clause. What do these terms mean you ask? Well, a main clause is an [independent clause](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/grammar-rules-and-tips/independent-and-dependent-clauses.html) that can stand alone by itself as a sentence. In other words, a main clause does not need any additional information to operate as a sentence. For example, the sentence "The student failed the test" is an example of a main clause.

A subordinate clause is a dependent clause that adds some extra information to the main clause. These phrases cannot stand by themselves, and their meaning is dependent upon that of the independent clause. They are not [sentences](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/sentences/compound-sentences.html)! For example, "because she didn't study" is not a complete idea worthy of being defined as a sentence. However, combine the two clauses, and we have "The student failed the test because she didn't study." A complete idea has been expressed, and enough information has been presented in order to fully explain the thought.

**List of Subordinating Conjunctions**

What follows is a list of common subordinating conjunctions used in the English language:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * after * although * as * as if * as long as * as much as * as soon as * as though * because * before * even * even if * even though * if * if only * if…then * inasmuch * in order that * just as * lest * now * now that * once | * provided * provided that * rather than * since * so that * supposing * than * that * though * ‘til * unless * until * when * whenever * where * whereas * wherever * whether * which * while * who * whoever * why |

**Importance of Subordinating Conjunctions**

After reviewing the list of subordinating [conjunctions](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/conjunctions/what-is-a-conjunction.html), do you see why they are so important? How many times in a day do you use those very words in sentences in order to fully communicate ideas? In addition to listing the actual words, providing a number of examples concerning how subordinating conjunctions are used in context will certainly prove helpful to this study.

* After running five miles around the track, Henry was too tired to go to basketball practice.
* Now that Maria has earned enough money, she can buy the concert tickets.
* He will be allowed to go to the zoo, provided that his homework is finished in time.
* You cannot watch television, unless you complete your chores.
* While Alex is a good tennis player, Samantha is better.

<http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/conjunctions/list-of-subordinating-conjunctions.html>