



Year 4

Introducing Subordinating Conjunctions: When, If, Because, Although

Top Tip: A subordinating conjunction joins a main clause to a subordinate clause.

- A main clause makes sense all by itself.
- A subordinate clause adds extra information but does *not* make sense on its own. It starts with a subordinating conjunction like when, if, because, or although.

Part 1: Spotting the Conjunctions

1. Circle the subordinating conjunction in the sentence below:

The children ran quickly inside the classroom because the school bell rang.

2. Underline the subordinate clause in the sentence below. *Hint: Underline the conjunction and the extra information that goes with it.*

We managed to finish our art project although we ran out of blue paint.

3. Draw lines to match each sentence to the best subordinating conjunction.

Sentence	Conjunction
You can play on the computer ___ you tidy your bedroom first.	when
The match was cancelled ___ the pitch was completely flooded.	although
The lights flickered violently ___ the thunderstorm began.	if
The explorer kept walking ___ he was exhausted.	because

Part 2: The Comma Rule

The Comma Rule: If you put the subordinate clause at the start of your sentence (a fronted subordinate clause), you must use a comma right after it!

- *Example:* When the bell rang, the children ran inside.
4. Tick one box to show where a comma should go in the sentence below.
- Although [] the dragon [] was terrifying [] it did not harm the villagers.

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5. Rewrite the sentence below so that the subordinate clause comes first. Don't forget your comma!

The dog barked loudly when the postman knocked on the door.

6. Tick the sentence that uses punctuation correctly.

If you try your best you will win a shiny gold medal.

If you try your best, you will win a shiny gold medal.

If, you try your best you will win a shiny gold medal.

Part 3: Sentence Completion & Writing

7. Fill in the missing gap with the most sensible subordinating conjunction from our core four (*when, if, because, although*).

The castle gates will remain locked _____ the King returns from his journey.

8. Complete this sentence by adding a suitable subordinate clause.

The sneaky fox climbed over the high wall

9. Complete this sentence by adding a suitable main clause. Remember the comma rule!

Because the weather was so beautiful and sunny,

10. Read the sentence below. Tick the box to show the function of the word although.

Although it was freezing cold, the children played outside in the snow.

It joins two main clauses together.

It adds extra information to the main clause.

It tells us exactly when something happened.

It shows that two things happened at the exact same time.