

SUBORDINATION

GRAMMAR

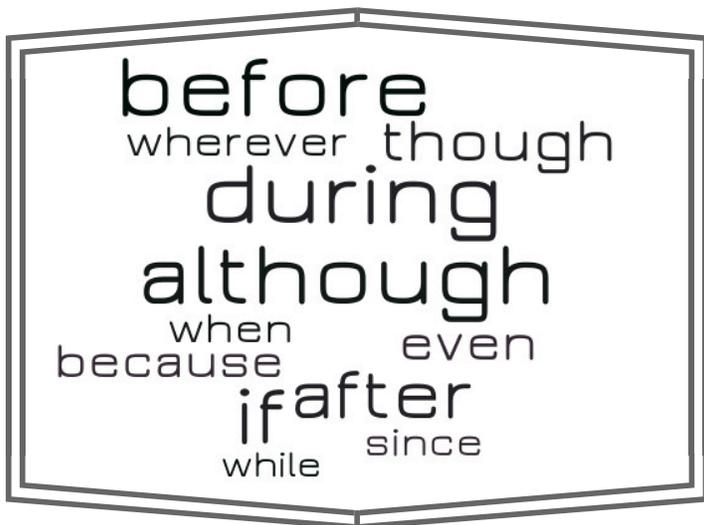


WHAT IS SUBORDINATION?

Subordination is used to combine sentences to add variety to your writing. Subordination combines sentences so that one becomes more important than the other. Subordinate clauses--also called dependent clauses--contain subordinating conjunctions.

COMMON SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

There are specific words that act as subordinating conjunctions. You can use these words to start a sentence or place them in the middle of your sentence.



A SUBORDINATE CLAUSE
**CANNOT
STAND ALONE**

»»»»»»»»»» ON ITS OWN ««««««««««

Yikes! That would be a fragment!

HOW TO ATTACH A SUBORDINATE CLAUSE TO A MAIN CLAUSE LIKE A BOSS

When you attach a subordinate clause to a main clause and place it at the **beginning** of the sentence, you **must use a comma**--just like this sentence.

subordinate clause +
, (comma) +
main clause

Do not use a comma when you attach a subordinate clause to a main clause and place it in the **middle** of the sentence--just like this sentence.

main clause + subordinate
clause (no comma)

SUBORDINATION EXAMPLES

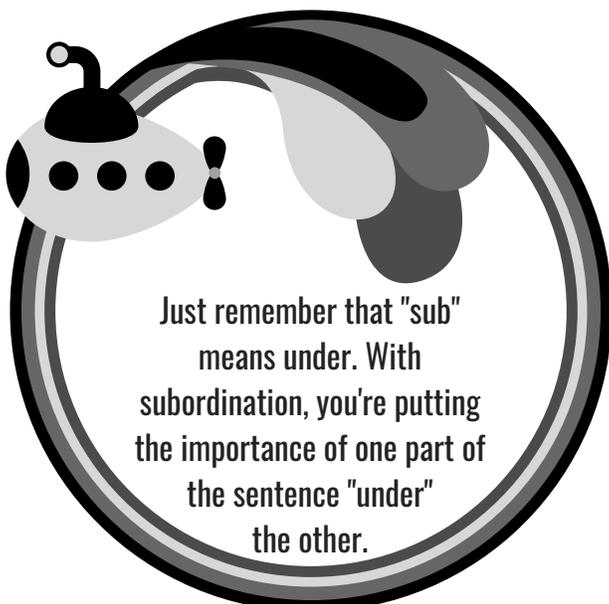
Reminder: If the subordinating conjunction comes at the **beginning** of the sentence, use a comma after that clause. If the subordinating conjunction comes in the **middle** of the sentence, no comma is needed.

without subordinator	Work can be demanding. I really enjoy it.
sentence opens with subordinator (use a comma)	Although work can be demanding, I really enjoy it.
without subordinator	Kate loves teaching. It is an extremely rewarding profession.
subordinator comes in middle of sentence (don't use a comma)	Kate loves teaching because it is an extremely rewarding profession.

Occasionally you will use a comma before a subordinator when you are showing a direct **contrast** in ideas.

Example:

The teacher said we would be taking a test, **although** it wasn't on the syllabus.



PRACTICE WITH SUBORDINATION

Try your hand at combining these sentences. Use a different strategy for each:

1. Combine using a subordinating conjunction at the **beginning** of the sentence:

I like pie and cake. I can't stand cookies.

2. Combine using a subordinating conjunction in the **middle** of the sentence:

My mother needed cream for her coffee. She prefers her coffee on the weak side.

3. Combine using a subordinating conjunction at the **beginning** of the sentence:

My mother needed cream for her coffee. I went to the store and purchased some.

Answers: 1) While I like pie and cake, I can't stand cookies. 2) My mother needed cream for her coffee because she prefers her coffee on the weak side. 3) Because my mother needed cream for her coffee, I went to the store and purchased some.