

## INTRODUCING SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS

As promised in the first lesson, we are ending this unit with subordinate conjunctions. These tricky little words join clauses, but the clauses are of different value. One is dependent on the other for meaning while the other is independent. When you see a sentence being introduced by an dependent (subordinate) clause, you will also see a comma following it. **Remember that subordinate conjunctions are always read as part of the clause-do not leave them out when trying to identify the clause as dependent or independent.**

**The following words most often introduce subordinate clauses because they are subordinate conjunctions:**

<i>after</i>	<i>because</i>	<i>so that</i>	<i>whatever</i>
<i>although</i>	<i>before</i>	<i>than</i>	<i>when</i>
<i>as</i>	<i>if</i>	<i>though</i>	<i>whenever</i>
<i>as if</i>	<i>in order that</i>	<i>till</i>	<i>where</i>
<i>as long as</i>	<i>provided</i>	<i>unless</i>	<i>wherever</i>
<i>as though</i>	<i>since</i>	<i>until</i>	<i>while</i>

### Remember these rules:

A **complex sentence** is comprised of one independent and one or more dependent clauses.

**When the dependent clause comes first**, a comma is required.

A comma is not required **when the dependent clause follows the independent clause**.

**Also remember** that a clause must have a verb to be considered a clause. Don't let a phrase fool you into thinking it is a clause.

It is important because it can make the difference between a simple or a complex sentence. Can you tell which is a phrase in the example below? If so, which of the sentences below is complex and which is simple?

**After the show**, we went out for some pizza.

**After we left the show**, we went out for some pizza.

*If you are not sure, don't worry. We are dedicating this last section to helping you identify simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences.*

**Subordinate Conjunctions join clauses of UNEQUAL value!**

