

Wednesday 20th January 2020

Subordinating Conjunctions

WALT: to recognise and use subordinating conjunctions in complex sentences.

To add more detail to their writing, an author might include complex sentences. This is when a sentence has a main clause and a subordinate clause, which can then be joined with a subordinating conjunction.

Have a look at the sentence below.

The children had to wear a coat outside because it was raining.

This is the main clause
because it makes sense
on its own.

The subordinating conjunction
joining the clauses.

This is the subordinate
clause, it does not
make sense on its own.

Activity 1: Circle the subordinating conjunction in each sentence. (Remember this is the word that links the 2 ideas)

E.g. The old man started snoring on the sofa after the TV programme finished.

- 1) The eager pupils sped into school when the bell rang.
- 2) Whales give birth to live young as they are mammals.
- 3) The hopeless rugby team lost the game since they hadn't trained.
- 4) Daphne didn't know that she could whistle until she tried.
- 5) The couple enjoyed their meal at the award-winning restaurant although it was expensive.
- 6) Heavy snow poured from the skies while the children made a snowman.

Bonus challenge: Underline the main clause in each sentence.

Activity 2: Complete these sentences using a subordinate clause.

- 1) I hate Mondays **because** _____
- 2) The sky suddenly turned black **when** _____
- 3) The wizard stirred his potion **before** _____
- 4) I didn't finish all of my dinner **as** _____
- 5) You can play with your toys **if** _____

Now come up with your own sentences.

- 6) _____
- 7) _____

Activity 3- Reorganise your sentences, changing where the subordinate clause goes.

E.g. The old man started snoring on the sofa **after the TV programme finished**.

After the TV programme finished, the old man started snoring on the sofa.

When you do this, don't forget your comma in-between the main and subordinate clauses.

Use some of your sentences from activity 2 to write with the subordinate clause going first.
