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Coordination and Subordination

Should I
coordinate
with ***for***?



Or would it be
better to
subordinate
with
because?



This presentation covers the differences between ***coordination*** and ***subordination*** and the relationship between ***clauses*** within a sentence.

**A coordination and/or
subordination item on an
objective test might look
like this ...**

Sample Item

- A. Jeremiah forgot to bring a pencil since he had to beg Amanda to borrow one of hers.
- B. Since Jeremiah forgot to bring a pencil, he had to beg Amanda to borrow one of hers.**
- C. Even though Jeremiah forgot to bring a pencil, he had to beg Amanda to borrow one of hers.

Subordinating the **first** clause with **since**, as option **B** does, is correct.



Coordination

- Coordination gives **equal attention** to **two** items.
- Use coordinating conjunctions: **and, but, for, or, nor, yet, and so.**

The dog ate Marvin's favorite tie, **and** the cat rubbed white hair on Marvin's black suit.

Both clauses **could** stand **alone**. When **joined** with **and**, they get **equal attention**.



You can also coordinate with a *semicolon*.

Main clause + ; + main clause.

Main clause + ; + transition + , + main clause.

The interviewer had seven Persian *cats; as a result, she* would understand Marvin's predicament.

Still
balanced.



Subordination

- Subordination gives **less attention** to **one** idea so that the **other** has emphasis.
- Use subordinate conjunctions, such as **because**, **even though**, and **when**.

Since Marvin tried to clean his suit, he was late to the interview.

I'm **sorry**.



Here are the subordinate conjunctions.

- after
- although
- as
- because
- before
- even though
- if, even if
- in order that
- once
- provided that
- since
- so [*that* implied], so that
- than
- that
- though
- unless
- when, whenever
- where, wherever, whereas
- whether
- while

Use a **comma** if you subordinate the **first** of the two clauses.

Subordinate clause + , + main clause.

Even though cat hair clung to Marvin's pant **legs, he** still got the job.

The **first** clause is **less** important.



The **second** clause has **more** emphasis because its thought is **complete**.

Use ***no punctuation*** if you subordinate the ***second*** of the two clauses.

Main clause + ∅ + subordinate clause.

Marvin smiled at his ***success as*** cat hair wafted in his wake.

Now the ***first*** clause is the ***most important.***



The ***second*** clause has ***less emphasis*** because its thought is ***incomplete.***

Quick Test, Part 1

Directions: In the items that follow, choose the most effective word or phrase within the context suggested by the sentence(s).



Show me
what
you
know!

Item 1

To impress Amy, his date, Ryan labored over the chicken stir fry; _____, she took offense that he was serving meat after she had explained her vegetarianism.

- A. furthermore
- B. moreover
- C. however**
- D. additionally

Item 2

_____ Thomas scores a 100 on the final exam, he cannot pass College Algebra, a class he is taking for the third time.

- A. Because
- B. Since
- C. As a result,
- D. Unless**

Item 3

The Rodriguez family breathed a sigh of relief when the giant oak withstood the hurricane winds; _____, they gave thanks that crews restored electricity in twelve short hours.

- A. as a result
- B. moreover**
- C. however
- D. on the other hand

Item 4

Mackenzie's clarinet squealed like a startled puppy, _____ she hadn't practiced in weeks.

A. because

B. for

C. since

D. unless

Item 5

_____ Grandma tasted the spaghetti sauce, she declared that it needed more basil and salt.

- A. Unless
- B. Although
- C. Whereas
- D. After**

Quick Test, Part 2

Directions: In the items that follow, choose the sentence that expresses the thought most clearly and effectively and that has no errors in structure.

Now try
***this
type!***



Item 6

- A. We decided to skip breakfast, for a spider crawled out of the cereal box.**
- B. We decided to skip breakfast, and a spider crawled out of the cereal box.
- C. We decided to skip breakfast, so a spider crawled out of the cereal box.

Item 7

- A. Madison and I decided to eat ice cream for dinner so that we had burned enough calories earlier at the gym.
- B. Madison and I decided to eat ice cream for dinner because we had burned enough calories earlier at the gym.**
- C. Although Madison and I decided to eat ice cream for dinner, we had burned enough calories earlier at the gym.

Item 8

- A. Even though Hank vacuumed the rental car, he failed to remove all the hair of Bonkers, his golden retriever.**
- B. Unless Hank vacuumed the rental car, he failed to remove all the hair of Bonkers, his golden retriever.
- C. Since Hank vacuumed the rental car, he failed to remove all the hair of Bonkers, his golden retriever.

Item 9

- A. Bonkers retrieves anything round, but put away those CDs if you don't want teeth marks in them.
- B. Bonkers retrieves anything round, and put away those CDs if you don't want teeth marks in them.
- C. Bonkers retrieves anything round, so put away those CDs if you don't want teeth marks in them.**

Item 10

- A. Andre mowed the lawn while Celia watched soap operas on television.**
- B. While Andre mowed the lawn Celia watched soap operas on television.
- C. While Andre mowed the lawn Celia, on the other hand, watched soap operas on television.

The End.