Unit Four

Joining Sentences with Subordinators

Subordinators are sentence-joining words that, like the coordinators, help us show a variety of relationships between ideas. Here are the subordinators we use most often:

Subordinator	Logical Relationship	Example
although, though, even though, while, whereas	contrast	Although I am a senior, I have 40 more units to take.
because, since	effect/cause	School is taking longer because I have to work.
if	condition	I can go to the movies if I finish my homework.
unless	condition	I cannot go to the movies unless I finish my homework. (Unless I finish means if I don't finish.)
before, after, when, whenever, until, as soon as	time	After I finish my homework, I'll go to the movies.

When we put a subordinator in front of a sentence, we change the sentence from an independent clause to a dependent (or subordinate) clause. A dependent clause cannot be a sentence by itself, so we have to join it to an independent clause:

Because she purchased her ticket in advance,   *(dependent clause)*
she got a discount fare.   *(independent clause)*

She got a discount fare   *(independent clause)*
because she purchased her ticket in advance.   *(dependent clause)*

Here is the rule to remember when using the subordinators to join two logically related ideas:

The dependent clause can come first or second in the sentence, but the two logically related ideas must appear in the same sentence.

She bought a ticket in advance.   *(sentence)*
Because she bought a ticket in advance.   *(fragment, not a sentence)*
Because she bought a ticket in advance, she got a discount fare.   *(sentence)*

PUNCTUATION: When the subordinate clause comes first in a sentence, it is followed by a comma, following this pattern: *subordinate clause + comma + independent clause.*

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Exercise One   Familiar Pests

Combine the following pairs of sentences using <u>subordinators</u>. Make the underlined sentence into the subordinate, or dependent, clause; the logical relationship is given in brackets. (Hint: Read the whole exercise before combining the sentence sets.)

EXAMPLE: <u>Some rodents and birds prey on cockroaches.</u>
Humans are their biggest foes.   *[contrast]*

SOLUTION: <u>Although some rodents and birds prey on cockroaches,</u> humans are their biggest foes.

1.   Cockroaches are a health menace to humans.
<u>They carry viruses and bacteria that cause diseases from</u>
<u>hepatitis to salmonella.</u>   *[effect/cause]*

2.   <u>Humans try to defeat the cockroaches.</u>
Cockroaches are very successful at surviving.   *[contrast]*

3.   <u>Cockroaches are smaller than the humans who chase them.</u>
They have extremely fast responses and sensitive receptors.   *[contrast]*

4.   <u>There is no food.</u>
Cockroaches subsist on glue, paper, and soap.   *[condition]*

5. If <u>They can't find glue, paper, or soap.</u>
They can draw on body stores for three months.   *[condition]*

6. Cockroaches are really desperate.
   They will turn into cannibals.   *[condition]*

7. Female Surinam cockroaches produce generation after generation
   of identical females.
   They are able to clone themselves.   *[effect/cause]*

8. Cockroaches must have their antennae intact.
   They function well even with their eyes painted over.   *[contrast]*

9. Some scientists believe that roaches would survive nuclear war.
   Roaches can tolerate much more radiation than humans.   *[effect/cause]*

10. Scientists have found that cockroaches dehydrate and die.
    They are deprived of their protective waterproof coating.   *[condition]*

11. People want to keep cockroaches as pets.
    They should find a way to destroy their waterproof coating.   *[condition]*