

## What Are Subordinating Conjunctions?

A **Subordinating Conjunction** creates a relationship between subordinate or dependent clauses, or ideas, in such a way as to make one grammatically dependent upon the rest of the sentence. Subordinate clauses can appear anywhere in a sentence.

The *idea* or *clause* that a subordinating conjunction introduces is said to be “subordinate” or dependent, because it cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

We raked the leaves **because** so many had fallen in the storm.

We raked the leaves **before** we had lunch.

**When** more leaves fall, we will rake again.

Notice in the examples above, that the clause that is introduced by the subordinating conjunction is not necessary but is more like a “bonus” of added information to increase understanding. Study the chart below to become more familiar with common subordinating conjunctions.

Subordinating Conjunctions			
after	as though	provided (that)	until
although	because	since	when
as	before	so long as	whenever
as far as	considering (that)	so that	where
as if	if	than	whereas
as long as	inasmuch as	though	wherever
as soon as	in order that	unless	while

### Examples:

**Although** murals are found in many cultures around the world, they have always been a particularly important art form in Mexico.

Some of the murals painted by Mayan artist in ancient Mexico still survive, **though** many are in poor condition.

**Before** the Mexican painter Diego Rivera came on the scene, twentieth-century Mexican murals were relatively unknown.

Rivera designed extraordinary murals **before** he died in 1957.

Many of Rivera’s murals depict scenes from Mexican history **because** Rivera believed that Mexicans are defined by their past.

**After** Rivera died, many Mexican American muralists took up his style and themes.

Mexican American artists in Los Angeles painted murals **wherever** they can find space.

They paint on public buildings **so that** their work can be enjoyed by many people.

So that the murals can be easily seen, the muralists use bright colors and bold, eye-catching designs.

As long as Hispanic culture continues to thrive in the United States, we will surely have many colorful and exciting murals to enjoy.



How many different subordinating conjunctions can you use to describe the image to the left.

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