

Clauses

Coordinators

Coordinators are used to create compound sentences. They are the link between two independent clauses.

There are seven coordinators:

Coordinator	Meaning	Example compound sentences
and	To add a similar, equal idea	Studying online provides students with greater flexibility and they can learn at their own pace.
but	To add an opposite idea	Some students enjoy the flexibility of online learning, but others find it difficult to motivate themselves.
or	To add an alternative possibility	Students must arrive on time, or they will miss the lesson.
yet	To add an unexpected contrast, or a surprising consequence	The student studied very hard, yet he was disappointed with his results.
so	To add an expected result	The quality of online courses has improved significantly, so a growing number of students are choosing this learning method.
for*	To add reason	The student was disappointed with his results, for he had studied hard.
nor*	To add a negative equal idea	Online learning does not provide much social support for students, nor does it have much feedback from the teacher.

**for* and *nor* are quite uncommon.

Conjunctive adverbs

Conjunctive adverbs express a variety of meanings. For example:

Meaning	Conjunctive adverbs	Example sentences
To add a similar idea	also furthermore in addition moreover	Messages and emails are sent and received instantaneously and so people can keep in touch on a more regular basis. Moreover , these communications can be received anywhere that has an internet connection.
To add an unexpected or surprising continuation	however nevertheless	The cost of studying at university is increasing each year; however , the number of enrolments continues to rise.

To add a complete contrast	in contrast on the other hand	A letter can take days to be delivered to the designated address; in contrast , emails arrive immediately in the recipient's inbox.
To add a result	as a result consequently therefore thus	A letter must be physically transported from one location to another. As a result , it can take days to arrive at its destination.
To list ideas sequentially	afterwards then subsequently after this following this	All the refuse is tipped from the truck onto the conveyor belt. Following this , it is sorted into different materials.
To give an example	for example for instance	The graph shows some similarities between the four countries; for example , in all the countries, staying at home was the least popular holiday choice.
To show similarities	similarly likewise	The chart shows that city holidays had a 30% popularity in China. Similarly , this holiday received around a 28% preference in South Korea.
To indicate "the first statement is not true; the second statement is true"	instead on the contrary rather	Hiking did not receive a similar response in South Korea and New Zealand. Rather , it was more popular in New Zealand by around 26%.
To give another possibility	alternatively	Online courses can be taken independently; alternatively , some students choose to study together, in small groups.
To add an explanation or clarification	in other words that is	Online courses provide a more flexible location. In other words , students can choose to study in a place that is convenient and comfortable for them.
To make a stronger statement	indeed in fact	Hiking was the most popular holiday in New Zealand; in fact , it was 8% higher than the next most popular holiday, skiing.

Subordinators

Each type of dependent clause is introduced by different subordinators, which express different meanings.

Subordinators for Adverb Clauses

*If the adverb clause comes before the independent clause, it is followed by a comma. If it comes after the independent clause there is no comma. For example:

- Without a comma: Many students prefer studying online **because it provides greater flexibility.**
- With a comma: **Because it provides greater flexibility,** many students prefer studying online.

Meaning	Subordinators	Example Sentences
Time (when?)	after before as / just as when whenever while as long as as soon as since until	After the number of sales fell dramatically in 2015, they grew gradually over the next 5 years.
Place	where wherever anywhere everywhere	Students can access online courses anywhere they have an internet connection.
Manner (how?)	as / just as as if as though	The number of cars sold plummeted in 2013 just as house sales did.
Reason	as because since	Many people struggle with online courses because they lack the technology required.
Purpose	so that in order that	One of the main reasons people chose online learning was so that they could reduce their travel time.
Results	such + noun + that so + adjective + that so + adverb + that	Many students work such long hours that they need to study on the weekends. Exams can be so stressful that many students lose sleep near exam time.
Conditions	if unless	If they need more money to cover living expenses, many students choose to apply for a part time job.
Partial contrast	although even though though	Although the internet has facilitated communication, it has also placed more pressure on employees communicate outside work hours.
Complete contrast	while	Some students enjoy online courses while others prefer more traditional face-to-face learning.

Subordinators for Adjective Clauses (for more information about adjective clauses, see the document about pronoun referencing).

Adjective clauses can be defining or non-defining.

Defining adjective clauses identify people or things. For example:

- The people **that** want to vote via post need to request a ballot paper.

Non-defining adjective clauses provides more information about people or things. These clauses are introduced with a comma. For example:

- The person voting needs to fill in the ballot paper in the presence of a witness, **who** signs and dates the paper.

Meaning	Subordinators	Example sentences
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To refer to people	who whom* that (defining only)	There are many students who enjoy studying online. Students that attend face-to-face classes have more interaction with their peers.
To refer to possessives	whose	Shoes were the product whose sales numbers increased the most over the 12 months.
To refer to animals and things	which that (defining only)	The ballot papers that are sent to applicants arrive two weeks before the election.
To refer to a place when the place is the indirect object	where	There are a number of points of the graph where sales drop below 4,000.
To refer to a time when the time is the indirect object	when	2008 was the year when sales were at their highest level.

* *Whom* is the object pronoun, but it is common now to use *who* for both the subject and object pronoun.

Subordinators for noun clauses

Type	Subordinator	Example sentences
That clauses	That	I believe that the Internet has greatly increased the possibilities for interaction.
If / whether clauses	If / whether	It is unclear if / whether face-to-face courses will continue in the future.
Question clauses	who, whom, which, what, where, when, why, how how much, how many, how long, how often, etc.	Many people are asking which method is more effective for students.