Building Better Sentences
Your Architect's Toolkit for Subordinating Conjunctions

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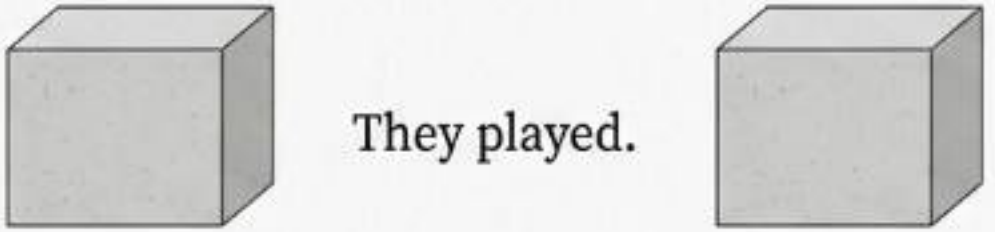
The Blueprint for Connection

Simple sentences state facts. Strong sentences build relationships between them. Subordinating conjunctions are the essential connectors that join ideas, transforming basic statements into a sophisticated structure.

BEFORE

It was raining.

They played.



AFTER

Although it was raining, they played.

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Unpacking Your Toolkit

Your toolkit is organized into four trays, each containing specialized tools for a specific architectural task.

Tools for TIME

To establish sequence, duration, and chronology.

Tools for CONDITION

To build with logic, rules, and possibilities.

Tools for CONTRAST

To construct with nuance, tension, and surprise.

The Tool for EXCLUSION

To refine your structure by making precise omissions.

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Crafting with Chronology: The Tools for TIME

These conjunctions are your chronometers and measuring tapes. Use them to precisely place events in relation to one another, ensuring your narrative flows in a clear, logical sequence.

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Tool: Once

USE:

after one specific time

BLUEPRINT:

Once you finish your homework, you may watch TV.

Tool: After

USE:

later in time

BLUEPRINT:

We left **after** the show ended.

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Tool: Before

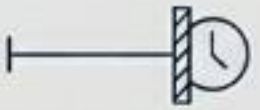
USE:

earlier than a time/event

BLUEPRINT:

Wash your hands **before** you eat.

Tool: Until



USE:

up to a point in time

BLUEPRINT:

Wait here **until** I return.

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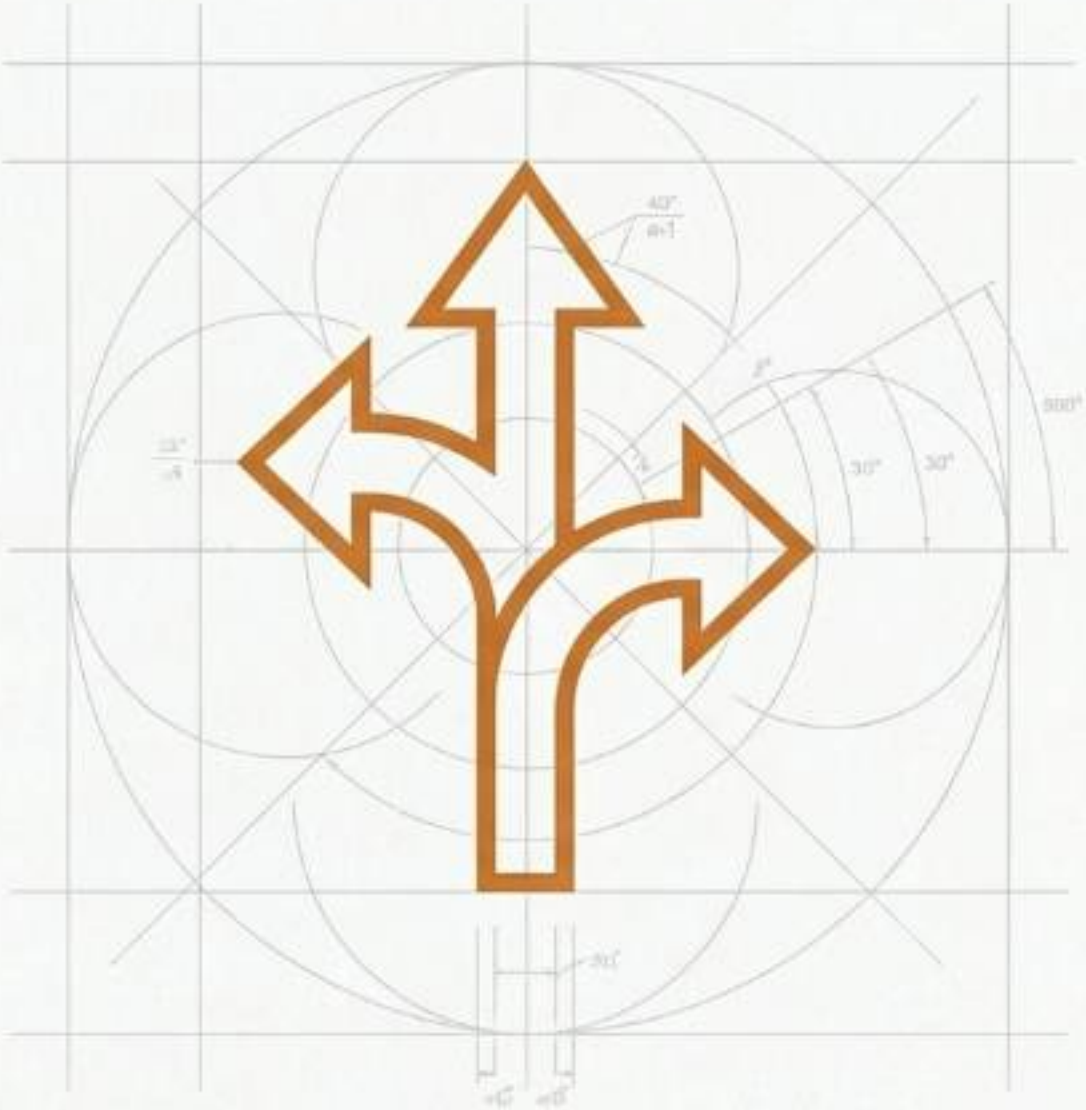

Building with Logic: The Tools for CONDITION

Conditional conjunctions are the load-bearing walls of logic in your sentences. They establish the rules, requirements, and potential outcomes that give your statements structural integrity.

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Tool: If

USE:

shows condition

BLUEPRINT:

If it rains, we will stay inside.

Tool: Unless

USE:

shows negative condition

BLUEPRINT:

You cannot enter **unless** you have a pass.

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Constructing with Nuance: The Tools for CONTRAST

Simple structures can be predictable. The tools for contrast allow you to introduce tension, complexity, and surprise. Use them to balance opposing ideas and build sentences that defy expectations.

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Tool: Though

USE:

shows contrast

BLUEPRINT:

Though he was tired, he continued.

Tool: although

USE:

shows contrast

BLUEPRINT:

Although it was raining, they played.

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A Power Tool for Emphasis

Tool: even though

USE:

strong contrast

BLUEPRINT:

Even though she studied, she was nervous.

Use 'even though' when you need to apply extra force, highlighting a particularly surprising or dramatic contradiction in your structure.

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Refining the Details: The Tool for EXCLUSION

Great architecture is as much about what you leave out as what you put in. This precision tool allows you to cleanly and clearly define the boundaries of your statement by specifying an exception.

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Tool: Except

USE:

excluding something

BLUEPRINT:

Everyone came **except** John.

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The Complete Architect's Toolkit

TIME

Once, After, Before, Until

CONDITION

If, Unless

CONTRAST

Though, although, even though

EXCLUSION

Except

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Go Build.

You now have the tools to connect ideas, add nuance, and construct powerful, sophisticated sentences. Move beyond simple statements and start building your masterpiece. Every conjunction is a choice that shapes the meaning and flow of your writing.

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