

Grammar: Complex sentences

IELTS Speaking Exam: Part 2

12 Read this Part 2 question and think about how you might answer it.

Describe your favourite season.

You should say:

what the season is and when it occurs

what the weather is like during this season

what your typical activities are during this season

and explain why it is your favourite season.

It would be easy to answer this question using only simple sentences. For example:

Most people prefer the summer. My favourite season is spring. It is not too hot. I often go for long walks.

However, you will not achieve a high score if you use only simple sentences like this.

1 We can join the first two sentences using *although*.

Although most people prefer the summer, my favourite season is spring. OR

My favourite season is spring although most people prefer the summer.

2 We can join the last two sentences using *since* (as a conjunction meaning *because*).

Since it is not too hot, I often go for long walks. OR

I often go for long walks since it is not too hot.

13 1 Join these two sentences using *although*.

Snow is beautiful to look at. It makes it difficult to get to work.

2 Join these two sentences using *since* (as a conjunction meaning *because*).

It rains so much in my country. We spend a lot of our time indoors.

Grammar: Subordinate clauses

A subordinate clause is a clause that cannot be a complete sentence in itself. It must be joined to a main clause, which can be a complete sentence in itself.

The typical structure of a complex sentence with a subordinate clause is:

subordinate clause + adverbial subordinating conjunction + main clause OR

main clause + adverbial subordinating conjunction + subordinate clause

Example: Whereas I like hot weather, my sister likes cold weather.

My sister likes cold weather whereas I like hot weather.

Note: Most adverbial subordinating conjunctions, including those in these exercises, and their clauses can go at the beginning or the end of a sentence.