

# SPAG – subordinate clauses

What is a **clause**?

A clause is a sentence!

**Lucy was the youngest.**

# What Is a Subordinating Conjunction?

A **subordinating conjunction** is a word which still **links two clauses** together in a sentence, but the **subordinate clause** it adds does not make sense on its own.

Let's look at a few examples:

The White Witch would lose **if** humans entered Narnia.



Subordinate Clause

'**The white witch would lose**' is the **main clause**. This clause makes sense on its own.

The **subordinating conjunction** in this sentence is '**if**'. It starts the subordinate clause.

'**humans entered Narnia**' is the **subordinate clause**. This doesn't make sense on its own but does add extra information to the main clause.

# With a talk partner: Which Conjunction Makes Sense?

Read the main and subordinate clauses below and decide which **subordinating conjunction** would make the most sense.



Beth was a little bit scared \_\_\_\_\_ the ride was spinning quickly.

Hazim cheered loudly \_\_\_\_\_ his favourite player scored a goal.



I didn't go to school \_\_\_\_\_ it was closed for the summer holidays.

**If Since As When Although While After Before Until Because!**

# Which Conjunction Makes Sense?

Did you manage to choose a subordinating conjunction which makes sense in the sentence?



Beth was a little bit scared **as** the ride was spinning quickly.

**In this sentence, the conjunctions 'because', 'when' and 'while' also make sense.**



Hazim cheered loudly **when** his favourite player scored a goal.

**In this sentence, the conjunctions 'because', 'as', 'while' and 'after' also make sense.**



I didn't go to school **while** it was closed for the summer holidays.

**In this sentence, the conjunctions 'because', 'since', 'as' and 'when' also make sense.**

# Where Is the Subordinate Clause?

In your books, write the following sentences and underline the **subordinate clause**. Red pen to mark the answers as a whole class!



1. Arthur had not seen his brother **since** he pulled the sword out of the stone.

2. King Alfred smiled for the crowd **as** he rode on his horse.



3. The Viking was tired **after** rowing in the longship for seven hours.

**Top tip:** A subordinate clause does not make sense on its own.

# Answers: Where Is the Subordinate Clause?

The **subordinate clauses** in these sentences are underlined. They always **start with a subordinating conjunction**.



1. Arthur had not seen his brother **since** he pulled the sword out of the stone.

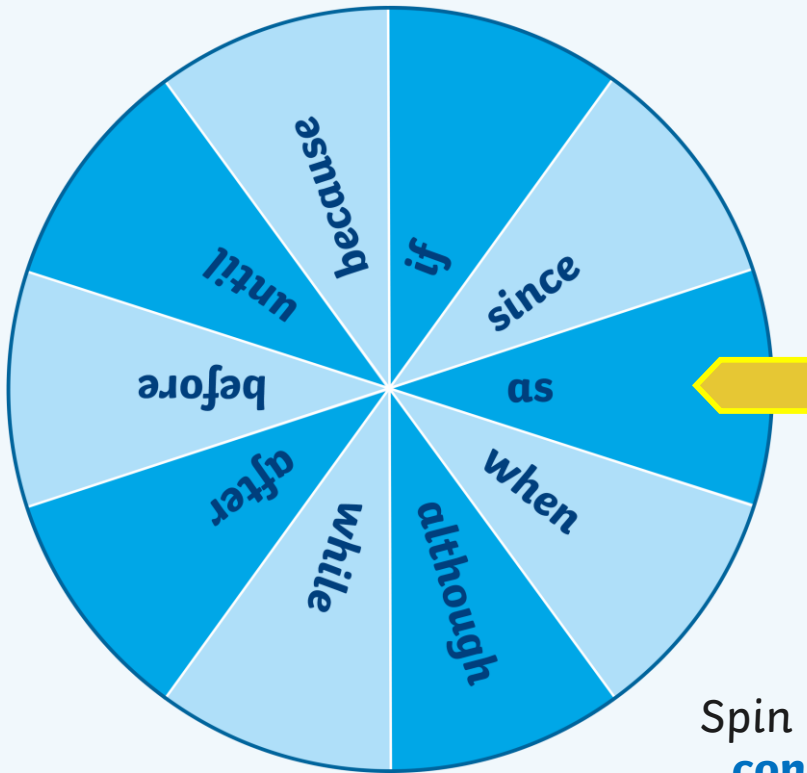
2. King Alfred smiled for the crowd **as** he rode on his horse.



3. The Viking was tired **after** rowing in the longship for seven hours.

# Spin the Wheel!

Spin the wheel to select a **subordinating conjunction**.



Spin

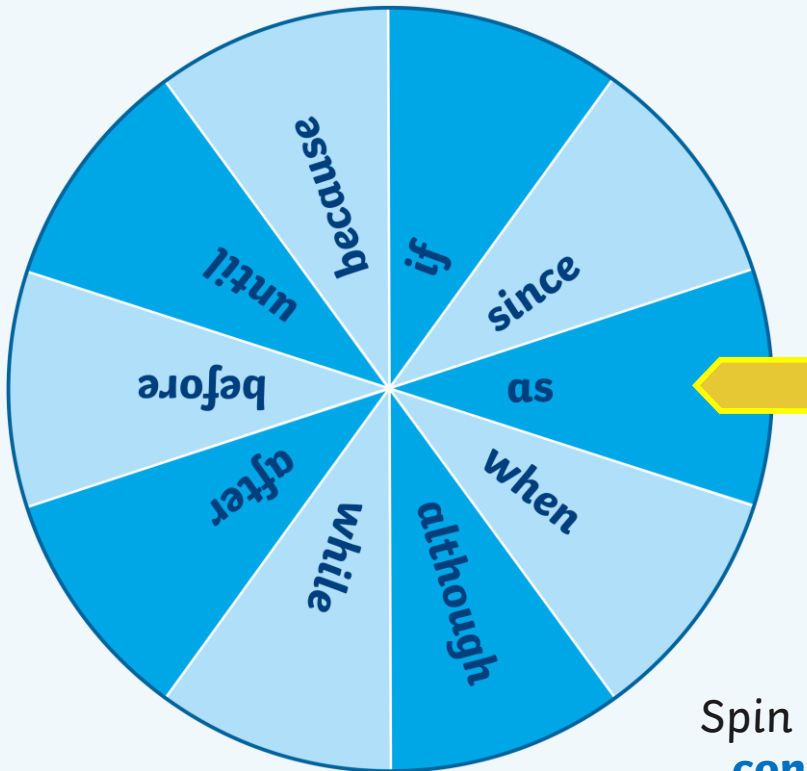


Spin the wheel to choose a **subordinating conjunction**. In your books, write your own sentence about the wardrobe including that conjunction to start a **subordinate clause**.



# Spin the Wheel!

Spin the wheel to select a **subordinating conjunction**.



Spin

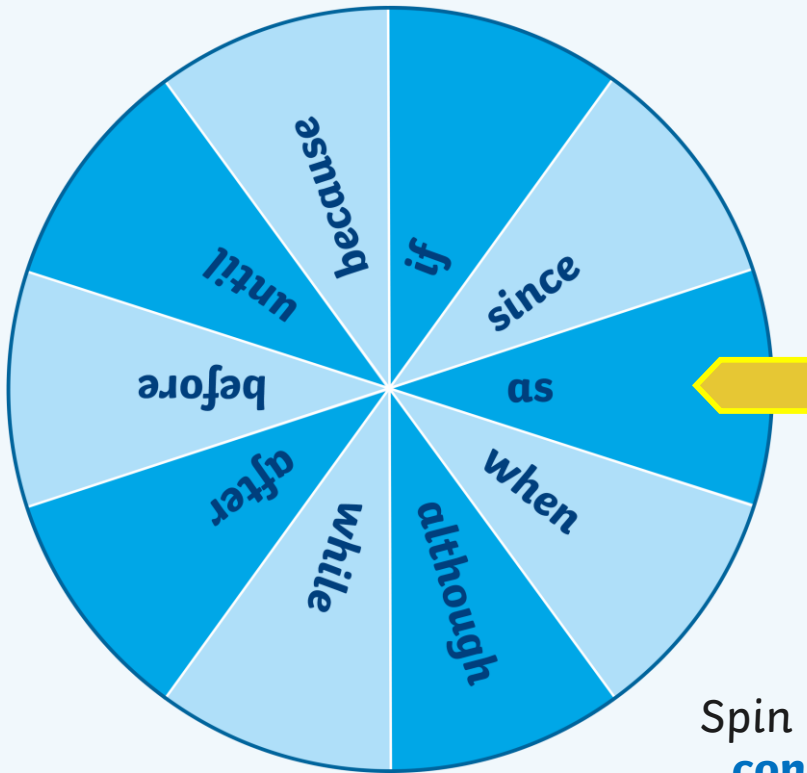


Spin the wheel to choose a **subordinating conjunction**. In your books, write your own sentence about Lucy including that conjunction to start a **subordinate clause**.

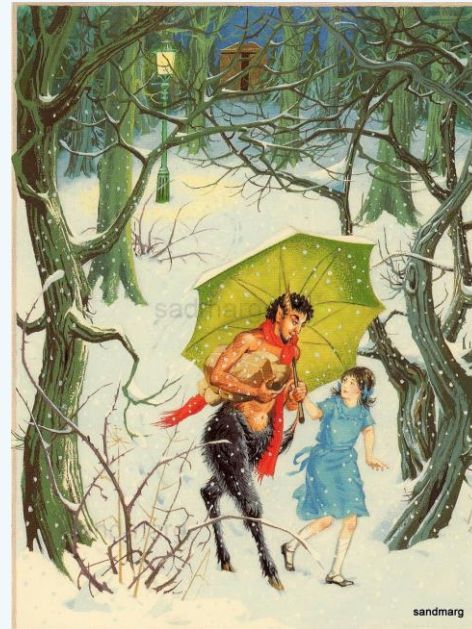


# Spin the Wheel!

Spin the wheel to select a **subordinating conjunction**.



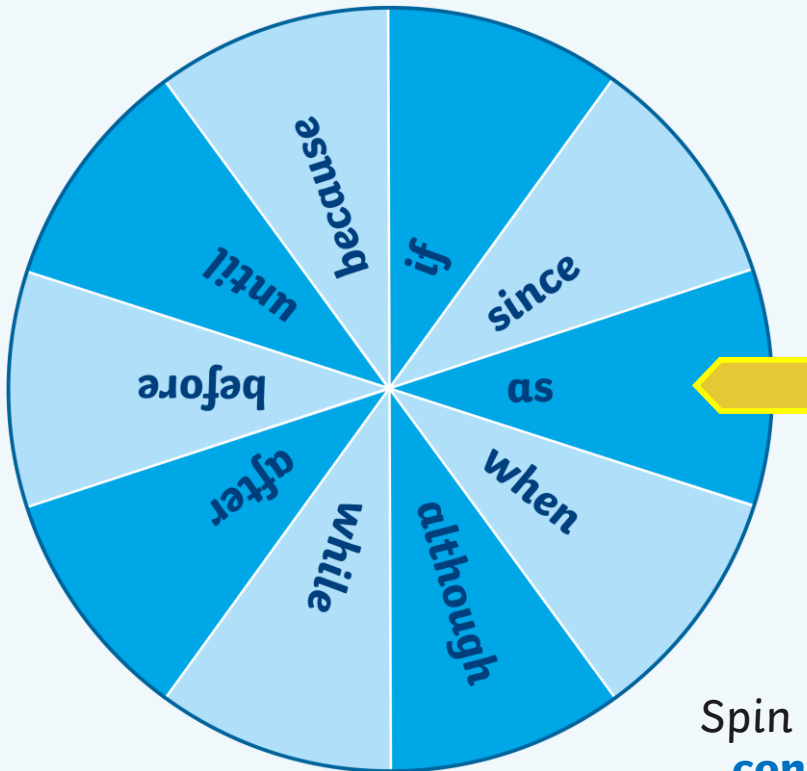
Spin



Spin the wheel to choose a **subordinating conjunction**. In your books, write your own sentence about this scene including that conjunction to start a **subordinate clause**.

# Spin the Wheel!

Spin the wheel to select a **subordinating conjunction**.



Spin



Spin the wheel to choose a **subordinating conjunction**. In your books, write your own sentence about the **White Witch** including that conjunction to start a **subordinate clause**.

# Go for it! Sentences with subordinate clauses

Choose a **main clause**, a **subordinating conjunction** and a **subordinate clause** to make sentences you can use.

Main Clauses	Subordinating Conjunctions	Subordinate Clauses
The Vikings sailed to England	because	they were being attacked.
Erik rowed quickly	until	the storm began.
The sailors slept on deck	although	they wanted to invade.
The longship travelled at great speed	while	the men rowed altogether.
	before	Sven slept quietly.
	when	they were tired.

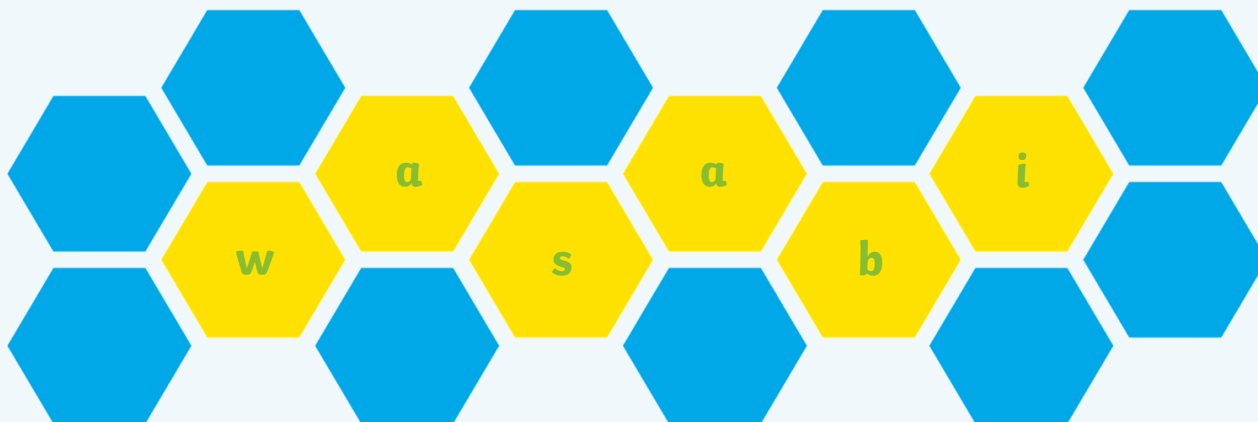
**Challenge: can you come up with your own sentences about longships using a subordinating conjunction and subordinate clauses?**

## End of lesson

1. Check your sentences – have you used capital letters and full stops?

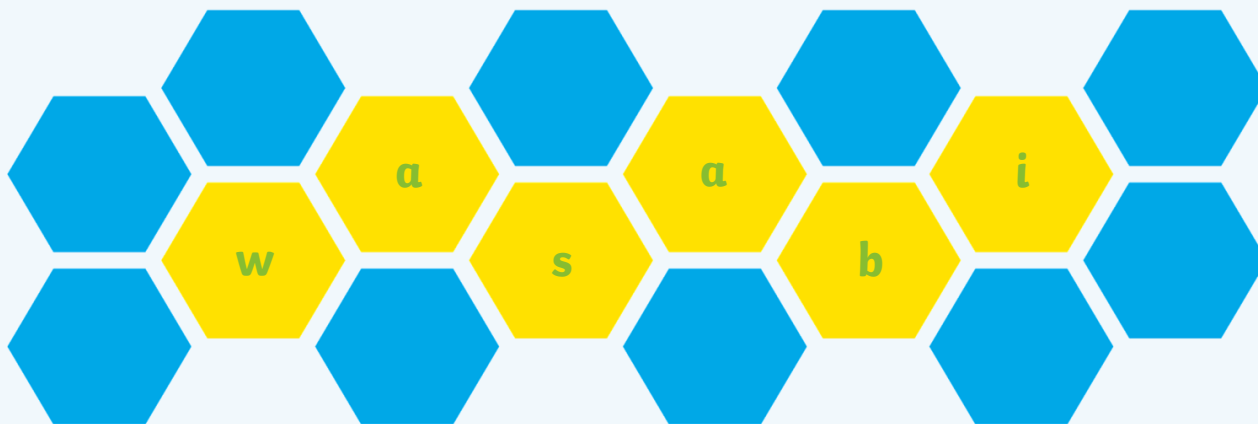
# Block Busters

Fill in the missing words by choosing an appropriate subordinating conjunction. Use the first letter of each answer to spell out the hidden word.



- 1) Li listened to some music \_\_\_\_\_ he waited.
- 2) I ate my dessert \_\_\_\_\_ I ate my dinner.
- 3) It has been a long time \_\_\_\_\_ I have seen my auntie.
- 4) I tried my best on the test \_\_\_\_\_ it was hard.
- 5) Paul must tidy up the mess \_\_\_\_\_ his Granny sees it.
- 6) You would be very tired \_\_\_\_\_ you had just finished a marathon.

# Block Busters



- 1) Li listened to some music **while** he waited.
- 2) I ate my dessert **after** I ate my dinner.
- 3) It has been a long time **since** I have seen my auntie.
- 4) I tried my best on the test **although** it was hard.
- 5) Paul must tidy up the mess **before** his Granny sees it.
- 6) You would be very tired **if** you had just finished a marathon.

What does the hidden word mean? Look it up in a dictionary!  
Can you write it in a sentence using a subordinating conjunction?



# Subordinate Clause Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!  
**In this sentence is it the main clause or the subordinate clause that is underlined?**

Vivian was tired as she hadn't slept.

main

subordinate

You're correct. How did you know?

# Subordinate Clause Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!  
**In this sentence is it the main clause or the subordinate clause that is underlined?**

Greg put up an umbrella when it started raining.

main

subordinate

We know it's a main clause because it makes sense on its own.

# Subordinate Clause Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!  
**In this sentence is it the main clause or the subordinate clause that is underlined?**

We could not go to the swimming baths because  
it was closed.

main

subordinate

You're correct. How did you know?

# Subordinate Clause Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!  
**In this sentence is it the main clause or the subordinate clause that is underlined?**

Don't go into the sea until the waves calm down.

main

subordinate

Which word in this sentence is the subordinating conjunction?

# Subordinate Clause Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!  
**In this sentence is it the main clause or the subordinate clause that is underlined?**

Zhou could not go on holiday although she really wanted to.

main

subordinate

Why is this the main clause?

# Subordinate Clause Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!  
**In this sentence is it the main clause or the subordinate clause that is underlined?**

I can spot subordinate clauses as I am a SPaG genius!

main

subordinate

You must be a genius because that's right!