

A SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

- is some extra information added to the beginning or end of the main clause
- cannot stand on its own
- has the verb at the end of the clause
- is joined to a main clause by a subordinating conjunction, eg, *weil, als, damit, obwohl...*

EXAMPLES

***weil* er seine Hausaufgaben machen muss**
because he has to do his homework

***Als* wir das Irrtum bemerkt haben**
When we noticed the mistake

***damit* sie uns um sechs Uhr treffen kann**
so that she can meet us at six o'clock

***Obwohl* sie reich sind**
Although they are rich

A subordinate clause and a main clause put together form a sentence. A comma must be placed between both clauses.

EXAMPLES

(main clause) (subordinate clause)
Karl darf ins Kino nicht gehen, *weil* er seine Hausaufgaben machen muss.
Karl is not allowed to go to the cinema because he has to do his homework.

(subordinate clause) (main clause)
****Als* wir das Irrtum bemerkt haben, haben wir es korrigiert.**
When we noticed the mistake we corrected it.

(main clause) (subordinate clause)
Helga arbeitet bis fünf Uhr, *damit* sie uns um sechs Uhr treffen kann.
Helga is working until 5 o'clock so that she can meet us at six (o'clock).

(subordinate clause) (main clause)
****Obwohl* sie reich sind, wohnen sie in einem kleinen Haus.**
Although they are rich, they live in a small house.

*NOTE When the subordinate clause comes before the main clause, two verbs end up side by side in the middle:

.....haben, haben.....

.....sind, wohnen.....

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

A subordinate clause is joined to a main clause by a subordinating conjunction.
The common subordinating conjunctions are:

als	<i>when</i>
als ob	<i>as if</i>
bevor	<i>before</i>
bis	<i>until</i>
da	<i>since/because</i>
damit	<i>so that/in order that</i>
dass	<i>that</i>
falls	<i>in case (that)</i>
indem	<i>by....ing</i>
nachdem	<i>after</i>
ob	<i>whether</i>
obgleich	<i>although</i>
obwohl	<i>although</i>
ohne dass	<i>without</i>
seitdem	<i>since</i>
sobald	<i>as soon as</i>
so dass	<i>so that</i>
während	<i>while</i>
weil	<i>because</i>
wenn	<i>if</i>
wie	<i>as</i>

OTHER EXAMPLES

Es ist Schade, *dass* sie umgezogen sind.

It's a pity that they moved house.

Es ist schwer zu wissen, *ob* er arm oder reich ist.

It's difficult to know whether he is poor or rich.

***Nachdem* ich gefrühstückt habe, bin ich in die Schule gefahren.**

After I had breakfast, I went to school.

***Wenn* das Wetter schön ist, fahren wir ans Meer.**

When the weather is beautiful, we go to the sea.