

SUBORDINATING CONNECTIVE CLAUSES

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE SENTENCES

1. Print this file and place the answer pages to the side.
2. Cover the answer pages with a sheet of paper, and slide the paper down as you complete each practice sentence.
3. Use colored markers and a highlighter to work on each practice sentence.

Feel free to write to me (dr_ron@grammar-once-and-for-all.com) if you have any questions or problems.

Directions

1. Mark the structural backbones of all clauses, both main clauses and subordinating-connective clauses:

Color just the main word of subjects of finite verbs **blue**.

Color auxiliary verbs and main verbs **red**.

Color just the main word of completers of finite verbs **green**.

2. Mark subordinating-connective clauses by enclosing them in curly brackets: { }.

If a subordinating-connective clause is the **subject** or **completer** of a main clause, color the *brackets* appropriately:

{That **he can quack** at all} **is** a **matter** for rejoicing.

[Blue brackets: The "that" clause is the subject of *is*.]

I notice {[that] **you've become** a marine **animal**}.

[Green brackets: The "that" clause is the completer of *notice*. I've put *that* in square brackets because it can be ellipted.]

3. Mark adverb clauses by enclosing them in black brackets and indicate what word in the main clause the adverb clause modifies:

We cancelled the **picnic** {because your **fruit salad is disgusting**}.

[The "because" clause modifies *cancelled*.]

We came {so that the **ducklings could see** the new migration **fashions**}.

[The "so that" clause modifies *came*: It's an adverb clause of purpose.]

Note: I've identified in some of the notes the kinds of adverb clauses—of time, place, condition, and so on—but it's enough just to indicate what the clause modifies.

Subordinating-Connective Clauses: Sentences 1 - 8

1. I haven't seen him since he gave up his job as a stunt-person on *The Roadrunner*.

2. My fleas accompany me wherever I go.

3. While 33rd prize isn't exactly fabulous, you should still be proud of yourself.

4. We know that Jack has become more nimble because we saw his candlestick trophy.

5. Although delicious, the cookies turned us into herons.

- 6a. That toads are cheeky is an indisputable fact.

- 6b. It's an indisputable fact that toads are cheeky.

7. Storks deliver babies because they like the taste of diapers.

8. She told me he eats only vegetarian animal crackers.

Subordinating-Connective Clauses: Sentences 9 - 17

9. If you're so nimble and quick, give this thimble a flick.

10. They will not molt until you turn your back.

11. He was noisy as a jaybird and more impertinent than five toads.

12. We all figured you'd slither in sooner or later.

13. If you want my respect, stop your hissing!

14. Can't you see that I hiss because I love you and because I'm a snake?

15. Now that they've all migrated, we might find time for a little molting.

16. Only Disney fans whistle while they work.

17. Squirt her with ketchup as soon as she puts on her French-fry earrings.

Subordinating-Connective Clauses: Sentences 18 - 22

18. I hate the fact that they got pie even though they lost their mittens.

19. Whether you go into mitten-detection or queen- observation, you will still need clean paws.

20. As a duck takes to quackery, so a cobra takes naturally to history.

21. A tense moment, fans! Jack looks like he's ready for his last candlestick of the match!

22. The judge's second accusation, that we got the octopus drunk in the first place, was a little more worrisome.

Subordinating-Connective Clauses: Answers to Sentences 1 - 8

1. **I haven't seen him** {since **he gave up** his **job** as a stunt-person on *The Roadrunner*}.

[The "since" clause (an adverb of time) modifies *haven't seen*. *Gave up* is a particle verb; you could say "gave his job up."]

2. My **fleas accompany me** {wherever **I go**}.

[The "wherever" clause (an adverb of place) modifies *accompany*.]

3. {While 33rd **prize isn't** exactly **fabulous**}, **you should** still **be proud** of yourself.

[The "while" clause (a concessive clause) modifies *should be*.]

4. **We know** {[that] **Jack has become** more **nimble**} {because **we saw** his candlestick **trophy**}.

[The "that" clause is the completer of know: *that* could be ellipted. The "because" clause modifies *know*.]

5. {Although delicious}, the **cookies turned us** into herons.

[*Although delicious* is a subordinating-connective clause; it modifies *turned*. Both the subject and finite verb have been ellipted: *although [they were] delicious*. (For *ellipsis* see the Reference page on the web site)].

6a. {That **toads are cheeky**} **is** an indisputable **fact**.

[The "that" clause is the subject of *is*.]

6b. **It's** an indisputable **fact** {that toads are cheeky}.

[Now the "that" clause is in apposition with *fact*, the subject of *is*. *It* is a dummy subject: it serves to make the sentence rhythm less formal.]

7. **Storks deliver babies** {because **they like** the **taste** of diapers}.

[The "because" clause modifies *deliver*.]

8. **She told me** {**he eats** only vegetarian animal **crackers**}.

[*Told* takes a double completer: *me* and the noun clause beginning with *he*. The subordinating connective *that* has been ellipted.]

Subordinating-Connective Clauses: Answers to Sentences 9 - 17

9. {If **you're** so **nimble** and **quick**}, **give** this **thimble** a **flick**.

[The "if" (conditional) clause modifies *give*. *Thimble* and *flick* are double completers of *give*.]

10. **They will** not **molt** {until **you turn** your **back**}.

[The "until" clause (an adverb clause of time) modifies *will molt*.]

11. **He was noisy** {as a jaybird} and more **impertinent** {than five frogs}.

[Two comparative clauses. The "as" clause modifies *noisy*; the "than" clause modifies *impertinent*. The finite verbs and completers of both clauses have been ellipted: as a *jaybird is noisy* and *than five frogs are impertinent*.]

12. **We** all **figured** {**you'd slither** in sooner or later}.

[The subordinating connective *that* has been ellipted.]

13. {If **you want** my **respect**}, **stop** your **hissing**!

[The "if" (conditional) clause modifies *stop*, an imperative verb.]

14. **Can't you see** {**that I hiss** {because **I love you**} and {because I'm a **snake?**} }

[The completer of *can't see* is the "that" (noun) clause. It contains coordinate "because" clauses, both modifying *hiss*.]

15. {Now that **they've** all **migrated**}, **we might find time** for a little molting.

[The "now that" clause, an adverb clause of time, modifies *might find*. ""]

16. Only Disney **fans whistle** {while **they work**}.

[The "while" clause modifies *whistle*.]

17. **Squirt her** with ketchup {as soon as **she puts on** her French-fry **earrings**}.

[The "as soon as" clause modifies *squirt*. *Puts on* is a particle verb.]

Subordinating-Connective Clauses: Answers to Sentences 18 - 22

18. I **hate** the **fact** {that **they got pie** {even though **they lost** their **mittens**} }

[The "that" {noun} clause is in apposition to *fact*. The "even though" (concessive) clause modifies *got*: It's nested inside the "that" clause.]

19. {Whether **you go** into mitten-detection or queen- observation}, **you will** still **need** clean **paws**.

[The "whether" clause, an adverb clause of combined condition and concession, modifies *will need*.]

20. {As a **duck takes** to quackery}, so a **cobra takes** naturally to history.

[The "as" clause, an adverb clause of manner, modifies the second *takes*. The *so* at the beginning of the main clause correlates the two finite verbs: *As this ... so that*.]

21. A tense moment, fans! **Jack looks** {like **he's ready** for his last candlestick of the match!}

[The "like" clause modifies *look*. It's an adverb clause of manner. Instead of *like*, we could use *as though*.]

22. The judge's second **accusation**, {that **we got** the **octopus drunk** in the first place}, **was** a little more **worrisome**.

[The "that" clause is in apposition with *accusation*, the subject of the main clause. *Octopus* and *drunk* are double completers of *got*.]