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
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.]