



## CONNECTING IDEAS

An important aspect of formal writing is the appropriate use of sentence structures to convey your ideas clearly and effectively. It is necessary to have a variety of sentence structures, drawing on the use of coordinate and subordinate conjunctions to form both compound and complex sentences.

**Sentences** can express both *simple* and *complex* ideas. Connecting ideas in sentences correctly is important because this makes the relationship between ideas clear and meaningful. A **sentence** must have a subject and a verb, and is also referred to as an **independent clause**. A **dependent clause** also contains a subject and verb, but is not regarded as a sentence because its meaning is incomplete.

## STUDY TIPS

In both IELTS writing tasks, it is important to use a variety of sentence types, including simple, compound and complex.

This makes your writing formal, more mature and interesting.

## COORDINATION AND SUBORDINATION

Ideas can be connected in a number of different ways.

**Coordination** is used to connect ideas that are of equal importance, joining independent clauses, which express ideas of equal content. An independent clause is, in fact, a simple sentence.

**Subordination** is used to connect main ideas with supporting ones. Sentences of this type join independent clauses with dependent clauses or phrases.

**Conjunctions** are used to join ideas together. There are two types of conjunctions – **coordinating** and **subordinating**.

**Coordinating conjunctions** join independent clauses (simple sentences) to form **compound sentences**.

There are **seven** coordinating conjunctions: **and, but, or, so, for, yet, nor**. Each expresses a different relationship between the clauses.



Coordinating Conjunction	Relationship	Example
and	used to add another or similar idea	Ginger is a popular ingredient in Asian cuisine, <b>and</b> it is used in medicinal preparations.
but	used to add an opposite idea or show contrast	Ginger is widely used in Asian cuisine, <b>but</b> it is becoming more popular in continental cuisine.
or	used to express a choice or an alternative	Ginger can be used for treating a cold, <b>or</b> it can aid in the digestive process.
so	used to give an effect or a result	The herbalist was successful in treating his patient with ginger, <b>so</b> he decided to try this remedy out with other patients.
<p>Note: A comma is inserted before these four conjunctions. In short clauses the comma can be omitted.</p>		
for	used to introduce a reason or a cause	Ginger is healthy, <b>for</b> it carries medicinal properties.
yet	used to express surprise or something unexpected	Ginger is an imported product, <b>yet</b> it is easy to grow in subtropical regions.
nor	used to join two negative sentences;	Ginger cannot cure a cold, <b>nor</b> can it remedy the flu.

**Subordinating conjunctions** connect a dependent clause to an independent clause to form a complete sentence, which is called a **complex sentence**.

There are a number of different dependent clauses, for example **dependent adjective clauses** and **dependent adverb clauses**. The subordinating conjunctions used in the various clauses express a variety of different relationships with the dependent clauses.

### Complex Sentences with dependent adjective clauses

Adjective clauses provide information about a noun or pronoun. They are sometimes referred to as relative clauses because they begin with a relative pronoun, such as *who*, *whom*, *which*, *that* or a relative adverb, such as *when*, *where*.

Relative Pronouns	
<b>used with humans</b>	
who	Students <b>who</b> complete the three-year program successfully will be accepted onto the course.
whom	The student <b>whom</b> the counsellor advised was offered a place on the Diploma program.
<b>used with nonhumans and things</b>	
which	First-year university students enjoyed the classes, <b>which</b> were quite challenging.
that	The course material <b>that</b> the student received was helpful.
Relative Adverbs	
<b>used to refer to a place or time</b>	
where	It was the place <b>where</b> the classes were held.
when	February is the month <b>when</b> the academic year begins.

### Complex Sentences with dependent adverb clauses

Adverb clauses provide the following kind of information: *when*, *where*, *why*, *for what purpose*, and so on.

Subordinating Conjunction	Relationship	Example
when, whenever	used to express time (when?)	<b>When students complete the two prerequisites</b> , they will be eligible for the business course.
where, wherever	used to express place (where?)	The students need to go <b>where the training sessions will be held</b> .
because, since, as	used to express reason (why?)	The student deferred her studies <b>because she arrived after the semester began</b> .
although, though, even though	used to express contrast	<b>Although the semester already commenced</b> , the university was accepting late enrolments.
while, whereas	used to express opposition	Second year diploma students focus on marketing and accounting, <b>while first year study business</b> .
so that, in order that	used to express purpose (for what purpose?)	The parents requested student visas <b>so that their children could pursue studies in Australia</b> .

The **punctuation** of a complex sentence with a dependent adverb clause is contingent on the order of the clause in the sentence. A comma separates the clauses only when the dependent clause comes first.