**Joining Sentences with Subordinators**

**Subordinators are sentence joining words that, like coordinators, help us show a variety of relationships between ideas. Here are the subordinators we use most often:**

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| **Subordinator** | **Logical Relationship** | **Example** |
| although, though, even though, while, whereas | contrast | Although I am a senior, I have 40 more credits to take. |
| because, since | effect/cause | School is taking longer because I have to work.  |
| if | condition | I can go to the movies if I finish my homework. |
| unless | condition | I cannot go to the movies unless I finish my homework. |
| before, after, when, whenever, until, as soon as | time | After I finish my homework, I’ll go to the movies.  |

When we put a subordinator in front of a sentence, we change the sentence from an independent clause to a dependent (or subordinate) clause. A dependent clause cannot be a sentence by itself, so we have to join it to an independent clause:

 Because she purchased her ticket in advance, (*dependent clause*)

 she got a discount fare. (*independent clause*)

 She got a discount fare (*independent clause*)

 because she purchased her ticket in advance. (*dependent clause*)

Here is a rule to remember when using the subordinators to join two logically related ideas:

The dependent clause can come first or second in the sentence, but the two logically related ideas must appear in the same sentence.

She bought a ticket in advance. (sentence)

Because she bought a ticket in advance. (fragment, not a sentence)

Because she bought a ticket in advance, she got a discount fare. (sentence)

**PUNCTUATION:** When the subordinate clause comes first in a sentence, it is followed by a comma, following this pattern: *subordinate clause + comma + independent clause.*