

Macbeth: Act 5
Year 5 and Year 6
Grammar Exercise: Subordinating conjunctions

Conjunctions

A **conjunction** is a type of connective. Specifically, a coordinating conjunction connects two **clauses** in a sentence.

For example, Malcolm **and** Macduff marched towards Dunsinane Castle.

The coordinating conjunction in this sentence is **and**

Conjunctions					
and	yet	but	or	nor	so

Subordinating conjunctions

A subordinating conjunction introduces a subordinate clause (a clause that does not make sense on its own).

For example, Macbeth can't stay in his castle **if** he wants to stay alive.

Conjunctions don't always appear in the middle of sentences, they can go at the beginning of a sentence.

For example, **If** he wants to stay alive, Macbeth can't stay in his castle.

Subordinating Conjunctions					
after	because	if	since	though	
	unless	until	when	where	why
	whereas	whenever	as soon as		

Useful videos

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/z9wvqhv>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4hrt39/articles/zfphsrd>

Exercise 1: Tick the correct box to show whether the conjunction is a coordinating or subordinating conjunction

Sentence	Subordinating conjunction	Coordinating conjunction
Macbeth tried to stop Malcolm and Macduff's army as soon as he saw them.		
Macbeth ran to the bedroom but he was too late.		
Macduff went to fight Macbeth because he wasn't scared of dying.		
The doctor didn't know what to do when he saw how mad Lady Macbeth had become.		
As soon as Macbeth saw the army in front of his castle he grabbed his sword.		
Malcolm cut down a branch and told the other soldiers to do the same		
Unless he could be King, Macbeth didn't want to live either.		
The army made it safely to Dunsinane Castle because the branches from Birnam Wood had disguised them.		
Macbeth realised he had misunderstood the witches prophecies and he was about to die.		

Exercise 2: Underline the subordinating conjunction in each sentence. Then, re write each sentence changing where the subordinating conjunction goes.

1. Lady Macbeth tried to wash her hands because she thought she could see blood on them.

Because she thought she could see blood on them, Lady Macbeth tried to wash her hands.

2. Macbeth tried to stop Malcolm and Macduff's army as soon as he saw them.

3. The army made it safely to Dunsinane Castle because the branches from Birnam Wood had disguised them.

4. The doctor didn't know what to do when he saw how mad Lady Macbeth had become.

5. Macbeth tried to stop Malcolm and Macduff's army as soon as he saw them.

Exercise 3: Complete each sentence. At this stage in the story, Macbeth has gone out to fight Malcolm and Macduff's army.

Macbeth swung his sword **as soon as he saw Malcolm's army in front of his castle.**

Macbeth swung his sword **because _____**

Macbeth swung his sword **but _____**

Macbeth swung his sword **and _____**

Macbeth swung his sword **when _____**

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ANSWERS

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Macbeth realised he had misunderstood the witches prophecies and he was about to die.		

Exercise 2:

1. Lady Macbeth tried to wash her hands **because** she thought she could see blood on them.

Because she thought she could see blood on them, Lady Macbeth tried to wash her hands.

2. Macbeth tried to stop Malcolm and Macduff's army **as soon as** he saw them.

As soon as he saw them Macbeth tried to stop Malcolm and Macduff's army.

3. The army made it safely to Dunsinane Castle **because** the branches from Birnam Wood had disguised them.

Because the branches from Birnam Wood disguised them, the army made it safely to Dunsinane Castle

4. The doctor didn't know what to do **when** he saw how mad Lady Macbeth had become.

When he saw how mad Lady Macbeth had become, the doctor didn't know what to do.

5. Macbeth tried to stop Malcolm and Macduff's army **as soon as** he saw them.

As soon as he saw them, Macbeth tried to stop Malcolm and Macduff's army.

Exercise 3: You can have a whole range of answers for these. Below are some examples.

Macbeth swung his sword **as soon as** he saw Malcolm's army in front of his castle.

Macbeth swung his sword **because Macduff was coming at him.**

Macbeth swung his sword **but Macduff ducked.**

Macbeth swung his sword **and killed the soldier attacking him.**

Macbeth swung his sword **when the soldier lunged at him.**