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Subordinating Conjunctions That Often Appear in Adverb Clauses

A subordinate conjunction, or connective, introduces the adverb clause and connects it with a word in the main clause. The following are frequently-used subordinate conjunctions:

although	as soon as	provided that	until	whether
as	because	since	unless	while
as if	before	than	when	if
even if	after	that	whenever	
as long as	in order that	though	where	

Notice the adverb clauses in the following examples and the ideas expressed by the connectives.

Time: *when, whenever, while, since, after, before, until.*

Abraham Lincoln maintained great interest in legal studies *when he was President*.
He read law books *whenever he had the chance*.
He even read *while he conducted cabinet meetings*.
He had wanted to be a lawyer *since he was a young boy*.
He worked as a lawyer *after he finished his education*.
He was a member of the legislature of his state *before he became President*.
He maintained his interest in law *until he was assassinated*.
We will better appreciate Lincoln the lawyer when we study his legal opinions.

Notice that *when*-clauses indicate a specific point in time, whereas *while*-clauses give the limits of time within which another, simultaneous action takes place. Also note that when a future tense verb is used in the main clause of a sentence containing a clause used as a time adverbial, the verb in the time clause is usually in the simple present form.

Place: *where, wherever*

I have always lived *where I was born*.
We will meet *wherever the committee decides*.

Manner: *as, as if*

I do *as I have been instructed*.
He acted *as if he owned the place*.

Comparison: *as, than, the + comparative form*

This course is more difficult *than the last one I had*.
It is really as interesting *as I was told it would be*.
The harder I study, *the more confused I become*.

Reason, Cause, Purpose: *because, as, since, so that, in order that, for fear that*

As you have already studied that chapter, it will not be necessary to read it again.
It will not be necessary to study that chapter *because you have already read it*.
The instructions are to read that chapter *so that we will be prepared to take the examination*.
The instructions were to read that chapter *so that we would be prepared to take the examination*.
I read that chapter *in order that I might be prepared to take the examination*.
I read that chapter several times *for fear that I might not be prepared for the examination unless I did so*.
I will study the chapter *so that I can pass the examination*.
I studied the chapter *so that I could pass the examination*.

Notice the sequence of tenses in clauses introduced by *so that*. If the verb of the main clause is in the present or future, *so that* is followed by *will* or *can* and the principal verb. If the verb of the main clause is in the past, *so that* is followed by *would* or *could* and the principal verb.

Result: *such . . . that, so . . . that*

The book was *so* interesting *that I read it in one evening*.
It was *such* an interesting book *that I read it in one evening*.

Condition: *if, unless, whether, provided that, on condition that, as (so) long as*

He will sign the contract *if it is satisfactory*.
(Perhaps it will be satisfactory.)
He would sign the contract *if it were satisfactory*.
(It is not satisfactory.)
He would have signed the contract *if it had been satisfactory*.
(It *was not* satisfactory.)
He will sign the contract *whether it is satisfactory or not*.
He will not sign the contract *unless it is satisfactory*.
He will consider it *provided that all his conditions are granted*.
He will sign the contract *on condition that he be allowed to consult his wife*.
He will sign the contract *as long as his wife has no objections*

Contrast, Concession: *although (though), even though, even if, no matter if, while, whatever, wherever, whenever*

I was an ambitious student, *although I managed to do my share of playing*.
My grades were always excellent, *even though I was often absent*.
I always corrected the mistakes of others, *even if they objected*.

I wanted to excel in everything, *no matter if it cost me friends and health.*
While I made many enemies in the class, I nevertheless was always the first to
answer the teacher's questions.
Wherever I sat in the class, my fellow students always avoided me.
Whenever I spoke, they always laughed at me.
Whatever you may think, I was an unhappy student.

References:

Wishon, G. E., & Burks, J. M. (1968). Let's write English, Book 1 (2nd. ed.) New York: American Book Company.