

Chapter 7

Amber began to get used to her new routine. Every morning she would get up early, preparing Grandad's breakfast and lunch before setting off to school. AJ would often call for her since he had to pass her house on the way anyway. AJ would spend most of the walk to school talking about himself, rarely asking about Amber. Even though his self-absorption could be irritating at times, on the whole Amber was happy to put up with it. It meant that he didn't ask too many difficult questions about Amber's past life which she would have had trouble answering.

Compared to Spellcaster Academy the lessons at school seemed rather dull although Amber was pleased to find she was doing rather well with normal school subjects. She certainly found it much easier learning spellings rather than remembering spells. And handling a hockey stick was a fun activity whereas controlling a broomstick was always a nerve-wracking experience. At lunchtime she would meet up with AJ. She enjoyed listening to his amusing descriptions of playing video games even if she hadn't the faintest idea what he was talking about most of the time. When she got home, she would look after Grandad. His strength seemed to be improving as each day went by, so that before long he was very much back to his normal self. In fact, life was looking up. Everything was looking rosy – that is, until the day the new headteacher arrived at the beginning of the summer term!

Her name was Miss Vile and it wasn't long before she lived up to her unfortunate name. She was actually quite pleasant to look at. She always wore smart suits and high-heeled shoes and looked every inch the professional teacher. She could also be very charming, and won over all the parents when she greeted them at the school gates with exaggerated tales of how wonderful their children were. This, however, was just a pretence, for as soon as the parents had left, her attitude towards the children would change completely. Whereas Miss Maple had always encouraged the children to be inquisitive and ask questions, Miss Vile could not stand noisy, questioning children and all talking was soon banned.

Children who disobeyed her commands would have to go to her office for "instructions" as she liked to call it, and peculiarly, when she had finished with them, they all became compliant, obedient children willing to do whatever was asked of them. It was clear that the teachers found her intimidating too, because whenever they heard her clipping down the corridor in her high heels they would quickly walk in the opposite direction. Amber disliked her intensely and her unpleasant-looking cat which Miss Vile insisted on bringing to school!





Name: _____

I can identify and use subordinating conjunctions.



We have looked at **coordinating conjunctions** which link sentences or clauses of equal importance. We call the sentences that these conjunctions produce **compound sentences**.

Subordinating conjunctions link clauses in much the same way, but the clause that comes after the conjunction is not as important as that which goes before. We call these sentences **complex sentences**.

Underline the subordinate conjunctions in the sentences below.

- 1 Miss Vile was very fond of her cat even though it was an ugly looking creature.
- 2 Miss Vile called her cat Lucy whenever people were around.
- 3 When she thought nobody was listening, Amber heard her call the cat Luci-fer.
- 4 Lucifer is a name in the Bible which Amber knew was another word for the devil.
- 5 It was black with white markings on its face that gave the impression it was wearing a mask.
- 6 The cat followed Miss Vile wherever she went in the school.
- 7 Although it was a novelty to see a cat in school, none of the children went anywhere near it.
- 8 Children didn't try to stroke it because of the evil look in its eye.
- 9 It looked like it would scratch you if you tried to touch it.
- 10 Nobody attempted to go near it until the fateful day AJ decided to befriend it!
- 11 There are many examples of subordinating conjunctions in the passage. See if you can find these conjunctions:

before since even though which
although rather whereas even if when
so that until because.



Extension Use these conjunctions in your own sentences about Miss Vile and Lucifer.



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Subordinating conjunctions link clauses in much the same way, but the clause that comes after the conjunction is not as important as that which goes before. We call these sentences **complex sentences**.

Choose the most appropriate subordinate conjunction in the brackets to complete the sentences.

- 1 Miss Vile was very fond of her cat it was an ugly looking creature. (*even though / because*)
- 2 Miss Vile called her cat Lucy people were around. (*before / whenever*)
- 3 she thought nobody was listening, Amber heard her call the cat Luci-fer. (*when / which*)
- 4 Lucifer is a name in the Bible Amber knew was another word for the devil. (*when / which*)
- 5 It was black with white markings on its face gave the impression it was wearing a mask. (*that / while*)
- 6 The cat followed Miss Vile she went in the school. (*if / wherever*)
- 7 it was a novelty to see a cat in school, none of the children went anywhere near it. (*until / although*)
- 8 Children didn't try to stroke itof the evil look in its eye. (*because / since*)
- 9 It looked like it would scratch you you tried to touch it. (*if / so that*)
- 10 Nobody attempted to go near it the fateful day AJ decided to befriend it! (*until / when*)
- 11 There are many examples of subordinating conjunctions in the passage. See if you can find these conjunctions:

before since even though which
 although rather whereas even if when
 so that until because.



Extension Use these conjunctions in your own sentences about Miss Vile and Lucifer.



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Subordinating conjunctions link clauses in much the same way, but the clause that comes after the conjunction is not as important as that which goes before. We call these sentences **complex sentences**.

Choose the most appropriate subordinate conjunction in the box to complete the sentences. (Some subordinate conjunctions are interchangeable.)

when which even though whenever because
 until that wherever although if

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