

# Subordinating Conjunctions

**Storm Warriors**  
Grammar: Complex Sentences

A **subordinating conjunction** connects two thoughts to make a **complex sentence**. The thought with the subordinating conjunction cannot stand on its own. It needs the rest of the sentence to make sense.

**subordinating conjunction**

*Because a storm was coming, we went home early.*

Some subordinating conjunctions are *if, because, when, while,* and *although*.

**Thinking Questions**

*Which part of the sentence cannot stand on its own? What word does it begin with?*

**Activity** Circle the subordinating conjunction in each sentence.

1. Although it was cloudy, we decided to go for a drive.
2. We wanted to go to the beach since the weather was still warm.
3. Because it looked like it might rain, we took our umbrellas.
4. We planned to head home if the rain became too heavy.
5. While we were at the beach, we picked up some seashells.
6. When the first raindrops fell, we walked back to the car.

**Activity** Write a sentence explaining what subordinating conjunctions do.