

Using Adverb Clauses

Each year that you are in school, your studies will become more complex. Whether you know it or not, your thoughts and ideas are becoming more complex, too. Your writing should reflect your growing ability to master complicated relationships between ideas. One easy way to express complex ideas is to use subordinating conjunctions to combine sentences.

Some Common Subordinating Conjunctions			
after	as soon as	than	where
although	because	unless	wherever
as	if	until	whether
as if	so that	when	while

Subordinating conjunctions join sentences of unequal importance. When you use a subordinating conjunction, you create a subordinate clause. A **subordinate clause** (or **dependent** clause) does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone.

Original:	Vacations are important. Children often forget their studies in the summer
Combined:	Although vacations are important, children often forget their studies in the summer.
Original:	Changes are not likely to come soon. This issue is still hotly debated
Combined:	Changes are not likely to come soon because this issue is still hotly debated.

NOTE: When a subordinate clause begins a sentence, the clause is followed by a comma. A subordinate clause at the end of a sentence does not need a comma.

DIRECTIONS Combine the following sets of sentences by using subordinating conjunctions.

EXAMPLE

Consider both sides well, ^{since} ~~This~~ this issue affects you.
^{Even though} ~~You~~ you may not believe it, ~~You~~ you just might like a year-round school.

1. The traditional school calendar is based on the needs of an outdated farming economy. Many educators promote the idea of year-round school. (because)

2. The concept may not appeal to all students. Year-round school attendance could resolve the problem of overcrowded schools. (even though)

3. Some people would support year-round school. All schools had air conditioning. (as long as)

4. Few parents would want their children in hot classrooms. Summer is at its peak. (when)

5. Parents often support year-round schooling. They discover that long vacation breaks cause students to forget much of what they've learned. (when)

6. Year-round schooling is implemented. Students will have "mini-vacations" ranging from one to eight weeks. (as soon as)

7. In some areas, educators suggest year-round schooling. Additional programs and activities can be offered to students. (so that)

8. Several schedules have been proposed. One of the most popular plans under consideration would consist of forty-five days of school followed by fifteen days of vacation. (Although)

9. Researchers of year-round school scheduling agree that education will not improve. Improvement is everybody's primary concern. (until)

10. The 180-day school calendar in the United States is shorter than that of any other industrialized nation. It may be that what is needed is not a different schedule, but a longer one. (since)

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Answer Key

Answer Keys:

Answers will vary. These are sample answers.

1. **Because** the traditional school calendar is based on the needs of an outdated farming economy, many educators promote the idea of year-round school.
2. **Even though** the concept may not appeal to all students, year-round school attendance could resolve the problem of overcrowded schools.
3. Some people would support year-round school **as long as** all schools had air conditioning.
4. Few parents would want their children in hot classrooms **when** summer is at its peak.
5. Parents often support year-round schooling **when** they discover that long vacation breaks cause students to forget much of what they've learned.
6. **As soon as** year-round schooling is implemented, students will have "minivacations" ranging from one to eight weeks.
7. In some areas, educators suggest year-round schooling **so that** additional programs and activities can be offered to students.
8. **Although** several schedules have been proposed, one of the most popular plans under consideration would consist of forty-five days of school followed by fifteen days of vacation.
9. Researchers of year-round school scheduling agree that education will not improve **until** improvement is everybody's primary concern.
10. **Since** the 180-day school calendar in the United States is shorter than that of any other industrialized nation, it may be that what is needed is not so much a different schedule, but a longer one.